



Article

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A new species of Parachute Gecko (Squamata: Gekkonidae: genus *Ptychozoon*) from Kaeng Krachan National Park, western Thailand

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Abstract

A new species of Parachute Gecko, *Ptychozoon kaengkrachanense* **sp. nov.**, is described from montane evergreen forest in Kaeng Krachan National Park, western Thailand. It differs from all known *Ptychozoon* species by having three dark dorsal chevrons between limbs insertions, homogeneous dorsal scalation without enlarged scales, original tail without long terminal flap, supranasals widely in contact, a continuous series of 14–19 enlarged precloacofemoral scales, bearing 13–17 pores in males, the absence of a predigital notch in the preantibrachial cutaneous expansion and the presence of cutaneous expansions on sides of head. It is the eighth species described in the genus and the only species of *Ptychozoon* endemic to Thailand.

Key words: Thailand, Phetchaburi Province, Kaeng Krachan National Park, *Ptychozoon kaengkrachanense*, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

In the course of our ongoing taxonomic and zoogeographical review of the herpetofauna of peninsular Thailand, we examined photographic and preserved voucher material of a *Ptychozoon* species from Kaeng Krachan National Park, Phetchaburi Province, western Thailand, possessing only three dark dorsal chevrons between limb insertions, in contrast to the only species recorded so far from the park, *P. lionotum* Annandale (Pauwels & Chan-ard 2006; Pauwels *et al.* 2009), which has four chevrons between limbs insertions. Our field investigations demonstrated that both forms occur within a few hundred meters of each other in the mountainous areas of the park. We thoroughly examined the morphological characters of this unique Kaeng Krachan *Ptychozoon* population in order to clarify its taxonomic status, and compared it to all seven congeneric species. Our findings demonstrate that it is clearly distinct from all known taxa and, therefore, warrants recognition as a new species.

Material and methods

Numbers of supralabials and infralabial scales were counted from the largest scale immediately posterior to the dorsal inflection of the posterior portion of the upper jaw to the rostral and mental scales, respectively. The number of rows of differentiated, imbricate, ventral scales was counted transversely across the abdomen between the flanks, which are covered by minute rounded scales. The number of the subdigital lamellae beneath the 4th toe was