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A new species of the *Gekko japonicus* group (Squamata: Sauria: Gekkonidae) from the border region between China and Vietnam

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Abstract

We describe a new species of the genus *Gekko* on the basis of 25 specimens from southern China and northern Vietnam. *Gekko adleri* **sp. nov.** is distinguished from the remaining congeners by a combination of the following characters: size moderate (SVL < 80 mm); nares in contact with rostral; internasal single, smaller than supranasal; postmentals enlarged; interorbital scales between anterior corners of the eyes 27–36; dorsal tubercle rows 7–11; ventral scales between mental and cloacal slit 168–190; midbody scale rows 123–144; ventral scale rows 35–44; subdigital lamellae on first toe 11–14, on fourth toe 11–15; finger and toe webbing present at base; tubercles absent on upper surface of fore limbs; tubercles on tibia 0–8; precloacal pores 17–21 in males; postcloacal tubercle single; tubercles present on dorsal surface of tail base; subcaudals enlarged; dorsal surface of body with four or five narrow light bands between shoulder and sacrum.

Key words: *Gekko*, phylogeny, taxonomy, Cao Bang Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Introduction

The *Gekko japonicus* group is the most diverse group in the genus *Gekko* with a total of 19 recognized species, which have distributions in eastern Asia, from Japan throughout eastern China southward to Vietnam (Rösler *et al.* 2011). The members of this group are characterized by a moderate size; nares usually in contact with rostral; two or three nasals; 0–21 rows of dorsal tubercles; 0–32 precloacal pores; 1–4 postcloacal tubercles; the webbing between fingers and toes weakly to extensively developed; lateral folds without tubercles; enlarged subcaudals; and vertebral region with large, light flecks, blotches or bands (Rösler *et al.* 2011).

During recent field work in the karst forests of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, southern China and of Cao Bang Province, northern Vietnam, we collected a number of specimens of an unnamed gekkonid species, which can be assigned to the *Gekko japonicus* group based on morphological features and phylogenetic analysis. Herein, we describe it as a new species.