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Cyrtodactylus khelangensis, a new cave-dwelling Bent-toed Gecko (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Lampang Province, northern Thailand

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Abstract

We describe *Cyrtodactylus khelangensis* **sp. nov.** from a limestone cave in Pratu Pha, Mae Mo District, Lampang Province, northern Thailand. It is characterized by a maximal known SVL of 95.3 mm; 16–20 longitudinal rows of dorsal tubercles; a continuous series of 37–40 enlarged femoroprecloacal scales, including six-seven pitted or pore-bearing scales (males) or one or two pitted scales (females) on each femur separated by a diastema from 2–6 pore-bearing precloacal scales (males and females); no precloacal groove nor depression; transversely enlarged subcaudal scales; and four irregular brown dorsal bands between nuchal loop and hind limb insertions.

Key words: *Cyrtodactylus khelangensis* **sp. nov.**, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

The first description of a Thai gecko believed to be restricted to a cave environment was *Cyrtodactylus sumonthai* Bauer, Pauwels & Chanhom in 2002 from Khao Wong, Rayong Province. Since then, six additional species known only from cave environments have been described from Thailand (Ellis and Pauwels 2012; Pauwels *et al.* 2013), which means a rate of approximately one new cave-dwelling species is discovered every two years. All of them have extremely restricted geographical ranges, and face a variety of conservation threats, from habitat loss, including quarrying and vegetation clearing near cave entrances, collecting for the pet trade, cave tourism overexploitation and mismanagement, to predation by feral cats (Ellis and Pauwels 2012; Sumontha *et al.* 2010; Panitvong *et al.* 2012). There is consequently a conservation emergency to inventory the still undescribed cave-dwelling species that are potentially at risk. A limestone cave in Lampang Province, northern Thailand, harbors a population of *Cyrtodactylus* that is distinct from any known species and is thus described here as new.

Material and methods

Measurements and meristic counts follow Sumontha *et al.* (2012) and Pauwels *et al.* (2013). Paired meristic characters are given left/right. Numbers of supralabial and infralabial scales are 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 longitudinal rows of body tubercles was counted transversely across the center of the dorsum from one ventrolateral skin fold to the other. The number of longitudinal rows of ventral scales was



FIGURE 7. Biotope of *Cyrtodactylus khelangensis* sp. nov. at type locality. Photo. by M. Sumontha.

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APPENDIX. Comparative material examined.

Cyrtodactylus auribalteatus: see material listed in Sumontha *et al.* (2010); *C. brevipalmatus*: see Pauwels and Chan-ard (2006); *C. dummuui*: see Bauer *et al.* (2010); *C. tigroides*: see Bauer *et al.* (2003).