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A new species of *Hemiphyllodactylus* Bleeker, 1860 (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from western Yunnan, China

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Hemiphyllodactylus* is described from mountainous area of Changning County, Yunnan Province, China. *Hemiphyllodactylus changningensis* sp. nov. is distinguished from all other congeners by morphology and a significant genetic divergence of greater than 17% (ND2 gene). The new species from Changning is characterized by the following features: a maximum SVL of 40.1 mm in males and 43.8 mm in females; 11–15 dorsal scale rows; 6–8 ventral scale rows; a forefoot lamellar formula of 3-3/4-3/4-3; a hindfoot lamellar formula of 3-4-4-4 or 3-3-3-3; precloacal and femoral pore series continuous; cloacal spurs present in both sexes; dark dorsal transverse blotches; dark postorbital stripe; a brown postsacral mark bearing anteriorly projecting arms; and unpigmented caecum and gonads. The new species occurs also in Longyang District of Baoshan City, Yunnan Province, China.

Key words: Slender Gecko, *Hemiphyllodactylus changningensis* sp. nov., molecular data, Changning County, Yunnan Province

Introduction

The first record of the slender gecko, *Hemiphyllodactylus* in China was based on specimens collected from the Yunnan Province. It was described by Boulenger (1903) as *Gehyra yunnanensis* and was recognized as *Hemiphyllodactylus yunnanensis* (Boulenger) in Smith's work on the lizards of British India (Smith 1935). Zhou *et al.* (1981) examined specimens of *H. yunnanensis* from Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, and recognized three new subspecies of *Hemiphyllodactylus* based on digital lamellae patterns: *H. y. dushanensis* Zhou & Liu, *H. y. jinpingensis* Zhou & Liu, and *H. y. longlingensis* Zhou & Liu. These subspecies were elevated to full species status in an integrative taxonomy study of *Hemiphyllodactylus* (see Grismer *et al.* 2013 for details). So far, four species of *Hemiphyllodactylus* have been described in Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China.

During fieldwork in the mountainous area of Changning County, western Yunnan, we collected specimens of an unnamed species of *Hemiphyllodactylus* with a slender body and unique U-shaped digital lamellae. The population differs from any known species of *Hemiphyllodactylus* in molecular and morphological characteristics. Therefore, we describe it here as a new species.

Material and methods

Sampling. Field surveys were conducted in July 2012 in Changning County of Yunnan Province in China. Geographic coordinates of sampling sites were recorded with a Geographic Positioning System unit (Garmin *GPSmap* 60CSX, GARMIN, USA) using map datum WGS84. All specimens were collected in the evening and were euthanized with ether. Liver tissues were preserved in 95% ethanol and voucher specimens were fixed and stored in approximately 10% formalin. Specimens were deposited in the collections of the College of Life Sciences, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China.