



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4058.3.6>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:C53B8D25-3EC8-4295-8666-4D8670E07AB0>

A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from the limestone forest of Khammouane Province, central Laos

VINH QUANG LUU^{1,4,6}, THOMAS CALAME², TRUONG QUANG NGUYEN³,
MICHAEL BONKOWSKI⁴ & THOMAS ZIEGLER^{4,5}

¹Department of Wildlife, Faculty of Forest Resources and Environmental Management, Vietnam Forestry University, Xuan Mai, Chuong My, Hanoi, Vietnam. E-mail: qvinhfuv@yahoo.com.au

²WWF Greater Mekong, House No. 39, Unit 05, Ban Saylor, Vientiane, Lao PDR. E-mail: calame@gmail.com

³Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Hanoi, Vietnam. E-mail: nqt2@yahoo.com

⁴Zoological Institute, Department of Terrestrial Ecology, University of Cologne, Zùlpicher Strasse 47b, D-50674 Cologne, Germany. E-mail: m.bonkowski@uni-koeln.de

⁵AG Zoologischer Garten Köln, Riehler Strasse 173, D-50735 Cologne, Germany. E-mail: ziegler@koelnerzoo.de

⁶Corresponding author

Abstract

We describe a new species of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* on the basis of three specimens from Khammouane Province, Laos. *Cyrtodactylus soudthichaki* **sp. nov.** is distinguished from the remaining congeners by the combination of the following characters: adult SVL 69.2–70.0 mm; dorsal head and neck with dark blotches; nuchal loop present; dorsum with five brown bands between limb insertions; 19 or 20 irregular rows of dorsal tubercles; 32 or 33 ventral scale rows; ventrolateral folds present, with distinct tubercles; dorsal surface of hind limbs with tubercles; 29 precloacal and femoral pores in a continuous row in males, precloacal pores absent in the female; enlarged femoral and precloacal scales present; 4 or 5 postcloacal tubercles; and subcaudals transversely enlarged. The new species most closely resembles *Cyrtodactylus jaegeri* and *Cyrtodactylus roesleri* in overall coloration and pattern. However, they can be clearly distinguished from each other in the number of dorsal tubercle rows, ventral scales, and femoral and precloacal pores. *Cyrtodactylus soudthichaki* is the 16th species of *Cyrtodactylus* known from Laos.

Key words: *Cyrtodactylus soudthichaki* **sp. nov.**, central Laos, morphology, taxonomy

Introduction

Limestone karst forests of Lao PDR (hereafter Laos) harbour a high level of species richness, in particular Bent-toed Geckos. A total of 11 species of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* have been recorded from this habitat type in Laos, for instance from Luang Prabang Province (one species): *C. vilaphongi* Schneider, Nguyen, Le, Nophaseud, Bonkowski & Ziegler; from Luang Nam Tha Province (one species): *C. wayakonei* Nguyen, Kingsada, Rösler, Auer & Ziegler; from Vientiane Province (two species): *C. pageli* Schneider, Nguyen, Schmitz, Kingsada, Auer & Ziegler and *C. spelaeus* Nazarov, Poyarkov, Orlov, Nguyen, Milto, Martynov, Konstantinov & Chulisov; from Borikhamxay Province (one species): *C. teyniei* David, Nguyen, Schneider & Ziegler and from Khammouane Province (six species): *C. roesleri* Ziegler, Nazarov, Orlov, Nguyen, Vu, Dang, Dinh & Schmitz (Teynié & David 2010), *C. lomyenensis* Ngo & Pauwels, *C. jaegeri* Luu, Calame, Bonkowski, Nguyen & Ziegler, *C. multiporus* Nazarov, Poyarkov, Orlov, Nguyen, Milto, Martynov, Konstantinov & Chulisov, *C. darevskii* Nazarov, Poyarkov, Orlov, Nguyen, Milto, Martynov, Konstantinov & Chulisov, and *C. khammouanensis* Nazarov, Poyarkov, Orlov, Nguyen, Milto, Martynov, Konstantinov & Chulisov.

Our recent field work in the karst forest of Phou Hin Poun National Protected Area, Khammouane Province, central Laos led to the discovery of another, morphologically distinct new species of *Cyrtodactylus* which is described below.