

## A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Lacertilia: Gekkonidae) from Papua New Guinea

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### Abstract

We describe a new gecko, *Cyrtodactylus murua*, from Woodlark Island, off the southeastern tip of Papua New Guinea. The new species differs from all Papuan congeners except *C. louisiadensis* (de Vis) and *C. aaroni* Günther & Rösler in having a single row of enlarged subcaudal scales. From *C. louisiadensis*, the new species is easily distinguished by its color pattern and by having fewer rows of enlarged dorsal tubercles; from *C. aaroni* by its larger size and fewer dark dorsal bands. The new species is almost certainly restricted to Woodlark Island and represents the first endemic reptile described from that island.

**Key words:** lizard, gecko, Milne Bay, Woodlark Island, new species

### Introduction

Woodlark Island is one of the more remote islands off of southeastern New Guinea, consisting largely of exposed limestone with a few hills (maximum elevation 301 m) in the south comprised of metamorphic rocks. It arose in close proximity to Misima Island to the south but has been pushed to the north during the past 5–10 million years by the rifting of the Woodlark Basin (Kroenke 1984, 1996). It has never been connected to mainland New Guinea. In the course of conducting biodiversity surveys in Papua New Guinea we visited this island and obtained there two lizards and two frogs new to science. One of the lizards has already been described (Kraus 2005). We take this opportunity to describe the second, a gecko of the genus *Cyrtodactylus*.

This genus represents a diverse lineage of more than 80 species of moderate- to large-sized lizards distributed in Southeast Asia, New Guinea, western Melanesia, and northern Australia (Bauer and Henle 1994; Kluge 2001), with many new species having been described in the past several years (Rösler 2001; Bauer 2002, 2003; Bauer *et al.* 2002, 2003; Günther & Rösler 2003; Pauwels *et al.* 2004). Ten species (Brown & Parker 1973;