



A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from western Papua New Guinea

FRED KRAUS

Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
fkraus@hawaii.edu

Abstract

I describe a new gecko, *Cyrtodactylus serratus*, from the Star Mts. of the western extreme of Papua New Guinea. The new species differs from all Papuan congeners in having a row of enlarged, dentate tubercles extending the length of each lateral skin fold. Further differences with the other species of Papuan *Cyrtodactylus* are identified and serve to highlight the uniqueness of the new species. I speculate that relationships of the new species may lie closest to *C. loriae* Boulenger among named forms, but numerous additional species of *Cyrtodactylus* remain to be described from New Guinea and this suggestion can only be considered tentative.

Key words: lizard, gecko, Star Mountains, Tabubil, new species

Introduction

The gekkonid genus *Cyrtodactylus* is a diverse lineage of more than 80 species of moderate- to large-sized lizards distributed from Southeast Asia through to western Melanesia and northern Australia (Bauer and Henle 1994; Kluge 2001). Knowledge of diversity within this genus is growing rapidly as numerous new species have been described in the past several years (examples given in Kraus & Allison 2006). Eleven species are currently described from New Guinea and adjacent islands (Brown & Parker 1973; Rösler 2001; Günther & Rösler 2003; Kraus & Allison 2006). An approximately equivalent number of undescribed forms resides in collections (Rösler et al. 2005; FK pers. obs.), several of these are highly distinctive in morphology and/or color-pattern, and some of these are the subject of ongoing research. I take this opportunity to describe one of the more distinctive of these species, based on a specimen held in the Australian Museum, Sydney.

Materials and Methods

Snout-vent length and tail length were measured to the nearest 1 mm using a ruler; all other measurements were made to the nearest 0.1 mm using a binocular dissecting scope with an attached micrometer or with vernier calipers. Measurements include: snout–vent length (SV), from tip of snout to vent; trunk length (TrL), from posterior edge of forearm insertion to anterior edge of hindleg insertion; tail length (TL), from vent to tip of tail; tail width (TW), measured at widest point of tail behind cloacal sacs; head length (HL), from tip of snout to retroarticular process of jaw; head width (HW), maximum width of head; head height (HH), maximum height of head; forearm length (FA), from base of palm to elbow; crus length (CS), from base of heel to knee; ear diameter (Ear), longest dimension of ear; eye diameter (EY), greatest diameter of eye between the