



A new species of the snake genus *Fimbrios* from Phong Nha—Ke Bang National Park, Truong Son, central Vietnam (Squamata: Xenodermatidae)

THOMAS ZIEGLER^{1,4}, PATRICK DAVID², AURELIEN MIRALLES², DOAN VAN KIEN³ & NGUYEN QUANG TRUONG³

¹Cologne Zoo, Riehler Str. 173, D-50735 Köln, GERMANY. E-mail: tziegler@zoo-koeln.de

²UMS 602 Taxinomie-collection - Reptiles & Amphibiens, Département Systématique et Evolution, CP 30, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 57 rue Cuvier, F-75231 Paris Cedex 05, FRANCE

³Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology, 18 Hoang Quoc Viet St., Hanoi, VIETNAM

⁴Corresponding author

Abstract

A second species of the previously monotypic snake genus *Fimbrios* is described from the Truong Son Mountain Range, Vietnam. *Fimbrios smithi* **sp. n.** is included in this genus on the basis of the combination of the following characters: rostral, mental and first three to four labials with raised, erected edges; a horizontal ridge of tissues above the rostral; a very large loreal. It is distinguished from *F. klossi* by having the suture between the internasals longer than that between the prefrontals; two suboculars; 193 ventrals, and 72 unpaired subcaudal scales; total length of at least 440 mm in males (with a tail length of 94 mm, and a tail / total length ratio of 0.214); dorsum greyish brown, with a paler flank area, and pale blotches and stripes in the neck region. *Fimbrios smithi* **sp. n.** is the seventh snake species that has been described as new from the Phong Nha—Ke Bang National Park, Quang Binh Province, central Vietnam, in the last decade; it is the forty-fourth colubrid snake species known from that region, which now comprises 60 snake species in general.

Key words: Central Vietnam, Truong Son, Serpentes, *Fimbrios klossi*, *F. smithi* **sp. n.**, morphology, taxonomy, distribution

Introduction

In 1921, M. A. Smith described the monotypic snake genus *Fimbrios* from Da Lat, Lang Bian Plateau, southern Annam. The genus belongs to the xenodermatid snakes (e.g., Dowling 1988, Dowling & Pinou 2003), either long considered a subfamily of Colubridae or, in latest phylogenies, a distinct family Xenodermatidae (Vidal *et al.* 2007). According to the older literature, the single species, *F. klossi*, was known from “Bockor, Elephant Mts.” in Cambodia (nowadays Bokor or Phnom Bokor National Park, that is located at the southern tip of the Elephant Mountains near the Cambodia Vietnam border), and from the central Vietnamese provinces Quang Tri (“Dong Tam-ve”) and Lam Dong (“Camly” now Cam Ly, “Dalat” now Da Lat, see Nguyen & Ho 1996, Nguyen *et al.* 2005) (Smith 1921, Bourret 1936, 1937a, b, Smith 1943, Campden-Main 1970). Specimens were collected at altitudes between 2275 and 5000 feet, which is ca. 680 to 1,500 m asl (Bourret 1936, 1937a, b, Smith 1943, Campden-Main 1970). Recently, Orlov *et al.* (2003) reported of new findings of Kloss’ snake in the Vietnamese provinces (from north to south) Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dac Lac, and Lam Dong. Orlov (2005) further listed *F. klossi* among others as “common species between central highland and northwestern Tonkin” and as “common species between central highland and southern Indo-