



A new species of *Goniurosaurus* from Cat Ba Island, Hai Phong, northern Vietnam (Squamata: Eublepharidae)

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Abstract

A new species of the gekkonid genus *Goniurosaurus* is described from Cat Ba Island, Hai Phong, northern Vietnam. *G. catbaensis* **sp. n.** is, by its gracile body and limbs, the thin, posteriorly protracted nuchal loop, the three (or four) thin immaculate dorsal body bands between limb insertions, without dark spotting and with dark, narrow border surrounding the body bands, the lack of postrostral (internasal) scales, the presence of a greatly enlarged row of supraorbital tubercles, the outer surface of the upper eyelid being composed of granular scales of about the same size of those on top of head and with a longish row of 6–9 enlarged tubercles, granular body scales, with 8–11 granular scales surrounding the dorsal tubercles, deep axillary pockets, claws being sheathed by four scales, and 16–21 precloacal pores. The new taxon is known only from Cat Ba Island and is the eleventh *Goniurosaurus* species known and the fourth known species from Vietnam. We provide first data on its natural history and a key to the currently recognized *Goniurosaurus* species.

Key words: Northern Vietnam, Hai Phong, Cat Ba, Squamata, Eublepharidae, *Goniurosaurus catbaensis* **sp. n.**, morphology, taxonomy

Introduction

The eublepharid genus *Goniurosaurus*, as it is currently constituted, contains ten species, which collectively range throughout northern Vietnam, southern China, islands in the Gulf of Tonkin in the northern portion of the South China Sea, and the Ryukyu Archipelago of Japan (Grismer *et al.* 2002). According to these authors, *Goniurosaurus* comprises the *G. lichtenfelderi* group, the *G. kuroiwae* group, as well as the *G. luii* group, which is the sister group to the disjunct monophyletic lineages of the *G. lichtenfelderi* and *G. kuroiwae* groups. The *G. lichtenfelderi* group contains *G. lichtenfelderi* (Mocquard) from islands in the northern most part of the Gulf of Tonkin and adjacent mainland north-eastern Vietnam, and *G. hainanensis* Barbour from Hainan Island, China; the *G. kuroiwae* group from the Ryukyu Archipelago, Japan, is composed according to Grismer *et al.* (2002) of five species: *G. kuroiwae* Namiye, *G. yamashinae* (Okada), *G. splendens* (Nakamura & Ueno), *G. orientalis* (Maki) and *G. toyamai* Grismer, Ota & Tanaka; finally, the *G. luii* group contains *G. araneus* Grismer, Viets & Boyle from the northern portion of Vietnam, *G. luii* Grismer, Viets & Boyle from north-