



Three new species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Peninsular Malaysia

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Abstract

Three new species of the gekkonid genus *Cyrtodactylus* are described from Peninsular Malaysia; *C. jarakensis* **sp. nov.** from Pulau Jarak off the west coast of Perak, *C. batucolus* **sp. nov.** from Pulau Besar of the Water Islands Archipelago off the west coast of Melaka, and *C. pantiensis* **sp. nov.** from the Gunung Panti Forest Reserve, Johor. All are distinguishable from other Sunda Shelf species of *Cyrtodactylus* in having unique combinations of morphological and color pattern characteristics. The continued high potential for finding additional new species in unexplored regions of southern Peninsular Malaysia and its associated archipelagos is further supported with these findings.

Key words: Malaysia, Gunung Panti, Johor, Melaka, *Cyrtodactylus*, *batucolus*, *jarakensis*, *pantiensis*, new species

Introduction

The lizard genus *Cyrtodactylus* is the most speciose group of gekkonids to date (Kluge 2001) and the remarkable frequency at which new species are being added to this group shows no signs of leveling off (i.e., Bauer 2002, 2003; Bauer *et al.* 2002, 2003; Grismer 2005, Grismer & Leong 2005; Hayden *et al.* 2008; Hoang *et al.* 2007; Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Nazarov *et al.* 2008; Ngo & Bauer 2008; Nguyen *et al.* 2006; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Rösler & Glaw 2008; Rösler *et al.* 2007; Youmans & Grismer 2006; Ziegler *et al.* 2002). *Cyrtodactylus* are generally forest-dwelling lizards noted for their slender, inflected digits, long limbs and associated terrestrial to scansorial habits. These characteristics are likely to have contributed to their widespread radiation from tropical South Asia, Indochina, the Philippines, and through the Indo-Australian Archipelago to as far east as the Solomon Islands (Bauer and Henle, 1994). There are at least 21 species of *Cyrtodactylus* currently recognized from the Sunda Shelf region of Southeast Asia collectively ranging from the Isthmus of Kra, Thailand (*sensu* Hughes *et al.* 2003) southward to Borneo, Sumatra, Java, and their satellite islands (Manthey & Grossman, 1997; Grismer, 2005; Rösler & Glaw 2008; Youmans & Grismer, 2006). Ten of these species occur in Peninsular (= West) Malaysia (Grismer 2008b) and in southern Peninsular Malaysia, Grismer and Leong (2005) and Grismer *et al.* (2007) noted that at least four of these, *C. consobrinus*, *C. quadrivirgatus*, *C. semenanjungensis*, and *C. sworderi*, are lowland inhabitants likely occurring in sympatry (Wood *et al.* 2008).

We report here on the discovery of two new species of geckos from southern Peninsular Malaysia; one from the Gunung Panti Forest Reserve, Johor and another from Pulau Besar, Melaka, a small island off the