



## A new endemic cave dwelling species of *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, 1827 (Squamata: Gekkonidae) in Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve, Southwestern Vietnam

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### Abstract

A new endemic cave-dwelling species of gekkonid lizard, *Cyrtodactylus hontreensis* **sp. nov.**, is described from Hon Tre Island in Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve in southwestern Vietnam and differentiated from all other species by a unique suite of the following characters: SVL of  $79.7 \pm 4.9$  mm, three broad transverse dorsal body bands edged in white between limb insertions, very low smooth dorsal body tubercles, the absence of a precloacal groove, 7–8 precloacal pores arranged in a chevron in males, a shallow dorsal groove on the tail, absence of caudal tubercles, and various aspects of color pattern.

**Key word:** Description, Hon Tre Island, *Cyrtodactylus hontreensis*

### Introduction

The gekkonid fauna of Vietnam and peninsular Indochina is diverse. Nineteen new species of gekkonids have recently been described (Ziegler *et al.* 2002; Das 2004; Rösler *et al.* 2005; Nguyen *et al.* 2006; Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Hoang *et al.* 2007; Grismer & Ngo 2007; Ngo & Bauer 2008; Rösler *et al.* 2008; Ngo 2008; Ngo & Luong 2008) as well as the reconfirmation of the presence of *Cyrtodactylus intermedius* (Smith) in the Bay Nui Mountains in An Giang Province (Ngo & Grismer 2006; Ngo 2008), replacing the erroneous records of Bobrov (1992, 1995).

Ngo (2008) noted that isolated hills and offshore islands in Gulf of Thailand had high potential for harboring gekkonid endemics. A field survey was conducted in the rocky cave systems of Hon Tre Island in Kien Hai district, Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve, Kien Giang province in January and September 2006 where seven specimens of an undescribed species of *Cyrtodactylus* Gray were collected. All possessed a unique combination of character states differentiating them from all other known species of *Cyrtodactylus*, and thus this species is described herein as new.

### Material and methods

All voucher specimens were injected with MS-222, preserved with 10% formalin after collecting liver tissue samples and transferred to 70% ethanol. The specimens were deposited in the Zoological Collection of the Faculty of Biology, University of Natural Sciences (UNS) in Hochiminh City, Vietnam.