



Two new diminutive species of *Cnemaspis* Strauch 1887 (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Peninsular Malaysia

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Abstract

Two new diminutive species of *Cnemaspis* are described from Peninsular Malaysia. *Cnemaspis monachorum* **sp. nov.** is a karst-dwelling species endemic to Pulau Langkawi, Kedah and is the smallest species of Southeast Asian *Cnemaspis* to date. *Cnemaspis pseudomcguirei* **sp. nov.** is a montane species known only from Bukit Larut, Perak in the Bintang Mountain Range and is very similar in appearance to the considerably larger, sympatric species *C. mcguirei*. Evidence supporting a working hypothesis of resource partitioning between sympatric species pairs of *Cnemaspis* on the basis of size and microhabitat preference is presented.

Key words: Malaysia, Langkawi, Bukit Larut, Karst, Gekkonidae, *Cnemaspis*, new species, taxonomy, resource partitioning

Introduction

The Southeast Asian gekkonid genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch 1887 (*sensu* Bauer *et al.* 2007) is one of the most rapidly growing groups of geckos in Asia and the rate of new species being discovered and described shows no signs of leveling off (Bauer & Das 1998; Chan & Grismer 2008; Das & Grismer 2003; Grismer & Chan 2008; Grismer & Das 2006; Grismer & Ngo 2007; Grismer *et al.* 2008a,b; Grismer *et al.* 2009). The confluence of new diagnostic character states (Grismer & Ngo 2007; Grismer *et al.* 2008a,b); taxonomic re-evaluations of previously described species (Chan & Grismer 2008; Grismer *et al.* 2008a,b); and access into unexplored regions and unique habitats (Chan & Grismer 2008; Grismer & Ngo 2007; Grismer *et al.* 2008a,b; Grismer *et al.* 2009) have produced a wealth of new discoveries and descriptions and for the first time, the actual diversity of these secretive, scansorial, morphologically conserved, forest-dwelling lizards is just now beginning to be realized. This is especially true in Peninsular Malaysia and its associated archipelagos where within only the last five years, nine new species have been described (Chan & Grismer 2008; Das & Grismer 2003; Grismer & Chan 2008; Grismer & Das 2006; Grismer *et al.* 2008a,b). Additionally, the descriptions of several more species from Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam are in progress.