



Cyrtodactylus erythrops (Squamata: Gekkonidae), a new cave-dwelling gecko from Mae Hong Son Province, Thailand

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Abstract

A new cave-dwelling species of *Cyrtodactylus* Gray is described from Mae Hong Son Province in northern Thailand. The new species, *C. erythrops* **sp. nov.**, is characterized by its moderate size (snout-vent length to at least 78 mm), relatively large, closely-spaced, flattened tubercles in 18–20 irregular rows at midbody, low number of ventral scales across midbody (28), absence of precloacal groove, presence of precloacal and femoral pores separated by a diastema, broad subcaudal plates, and dorsal pattern of dark spots and blotches. It is the fifth species of cave-dwelling *Cyrtodactylus* recorded from Thailand and its discovery adds to the mounting evidence that this genus exhibits unprecedented levels of localized endemism throughout tropical Southeast Asia.

Key words: Thailand, Mae Hong Son Province, Reptilia, Gekkonidae, *Cyrtodactylus erythrops* **sp. nov.**, taxonomy, cave-dwelling

Introduction

The tropical Asian and Australopapuan genus *Cyrtodactylus* Gray is one of the most species rich gekkonid lizard groups. Its approximately 100 described species are distributed across tropical Asia from India and Sri Lanka to the Philippines, northeastern Australia, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands (Rösler 2000; Kluge 2001; Bauer 2002, 2003; Bauer *et al.* 2002, 2003; Günther & Rösler 2003). New species of *Cyrtodactylus* continue to be discovered throughout the range of the genus (e.g., Sri Lanka, Batuwita & Bahir 2005; Indonesia, Hayden *et al.* 2008; Linkem *et al.* 2008; New Guinea and the Solomons, Rösler 2001; Günther & Rösler 2003; Kraus & Allison 2006; Oliver *et al.* 2008; Rösler *et al.* 2007; Kraus 2007, 2008), but the greatest rate of discovery has been in Southeast Asia.

Since 2005 21 new species, most with highly restricted distributions, have been described in Peninsular Malaysia and its offshore islands (Grismer 2005, 2006; Grismer & Leong 2005; Youmans & Grismer 2006; Grismer & Ahmad 2008; Grismer *et al.* 2008; Rösler & Glaw 2008) and Vietnam (Nguyen *et al.* 2006; Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Hoang *et al.* 2007; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Ngo & Bauer 2008; Ngo 2008; Ngo *et al.* 2008; Nazarov *et al.* 2008; Rösler *et al.* 2008) alone. Other relatively recent discoveries include a new *Cyrtodactylus* from Laos (David *et al.* 2004), nine from Myanmar (Bauer 2002, 2003), and four from Thailand (Bauer *et al.* 2002, 2003; Pauwels *et al.* 2004).