



A new species of the *Cyrtodactylus irregularis* complex (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from southern Vietnam

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Abstract

We describe a new species of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* from southern Vietnam, based on voucher specimens collected from Dong Nai and Ba Ria – Vung Tau provinces. *Cyrtodactylus cattienensis* **sp. nov.** is distinguished from the remaining Indochinese bent-toed geckos by a combination of the following characters: size small, with a maximum SVL of 69 mm; neck band present, extending to the posterior margin of the eye; trunk, tail and limbs bearing irregularly shaped bands: 4–6 light bands on trunk and 4–12 white bands on tail; 16–22 irregular longitudinal rows of dorsal tubercles; 28–42 longitudinal rows of ventrals at midbody; lateral folds weakly developed or absent, without enlarged tubercles; tail not depressed, not enlarged at base, scales arranged in whorls; males with 6–8 precloacal pores in angular continuous series; a patch of enlarged precloacal scales present in both sexes; 3–8 slightly enlarged femoral scales on each hind limb in both sexes; femoral pores absent; precloacal groove absent; subcaudal scales small, not transversely enlarged.

Key words: *Cyrtodactylus cattienensis* **sp. nov.**, Dong Nai and Ba Ria – Vung Tau Provinces, southern Vietnam, natural history, taxonomy

Introduction

There has been an enormous increase in the number of new species of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* recently described from Southeast Asia and the Oceanian region, resulting in a total of at least 90 currently recognized species (Ngo & Bauer 2008). *Cyrtodactylus* thus forms the most diverse group of gekkonid lizards to date (e.g., Kluge 2001), with “Indochina” representing one of the centres of undiscovered species diversity. Outside of Vietnam, numerous new records and discoveries from mainland Southeast Asia have been documented for Malaysia (Dring 1979; Das & Lim 2000; Grismer 2005; Grismer & Leong 2005; Grismer & Norhayati 2008; Grismer *et al.* 2008), Myanmar (Bauer 2002, 2003), Laos (David *et al.* 2004; Teynié 2004; Teynié *et al.* 2004), and Thailand (Bauer *et al.* 2002, 2003; Pauwels *et al.* 2004). In Vietnam, the species number of *Cyrtodactylus* remarkably increased from three recognized species in 1997 (*C. condorensis*, *C. intermedius*, *C. irregularis*) to 17 species in 2008 (see Ngo & Bauer 2008), namely *C. badenensis*, *C. caovansungi*, *C. chauquangensis*, *C. cryptus*, *C. eisenmani*, *C. grismeri*, *C. hontreensis*, *C. huynhi*, *C. nigriocularis*, *C. paradoxus*, *C. phongnhakebangensis*, *C. pseudoquadrivirgatus*, *C. takouensis*, and *C. ziegleri* (Ziegler *et al.* 2002; Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Nazarov *et al.* 2008; Ngo 2008; Ngo &