



A new species of *Gekko* Laurenti, 1768 (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Dong Nai Province, Southeastern Vietnam

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Abstract

A new endemic species of *Gekko*, *G. russelltraini*, is described from Chua Chan Mountain, an isolated granitic peak in the Xuan Loc district, Dong Nai province, southeastern Vietnam. The species is distinguished from its congeners by its moderate size (SVL 70.3–82.9 mm), 8–11 precloacal pores in males, 12–16 longitudinal rows of very weakly enlarged, smooth dorsal tubercles, 17–18 lamellae beneath digit IV of pes, and dorsal pattern of five to seven white vertebral blotches between nape and sacrum and four to seven pairs of short white bands on flanks between limb insertions. *Gekko russelltraini* is a member of a group of mid-sized Indochinese *Gekko* sharing similar habitus, scalation, and color pattern elements and is the seventh member of its genus confirmed for Vietnam.

Key words: *Gekko*, Gekkonidae, new species, granitic outcrop, Chua Chan Mountain, Vietnam

Introduction

The gekkotan fauna of Indochina is among the richest in the world and in the last decade the description of a large number of new species from the region, particularly Vietnam, has revealed that localized endemism occurs there on a previously unappreciated scale. The greatest number of new forms have been identified in the genera *Cyrtodactylus* (e.g., Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Ngo & Bauer 2008 and references cited therein) and *Cnemaspis* (Grismer & Ngo 2007; Grismer *et al.* 2008 and references therein), but Ziegler *et al.* (2008) recently described the new eublepharid gecko, *Goniurosaurus catbaensis* from Cát Bà Island, Hai Phong Province and Rösler *et al.* (2005) described *Gekko scientiaventura* from Phong Nha-Ke Bang, Quang Binh Province.

At least 12 species of the genus *Gekko* Laurenti occur in Indochina (Taylor 1962; Grossmann & Ulber 1990; Darevsky & Orlov 1994; Günther, 1994; Szczerbak & Nekrasova, 1993; Bobrov, 1995; Ota *et al.* 1995; Cox *et al.* 1998; Rösler *et al.* 2005; Bauer *et al.* 2008). Of these, at least six are known from Vietnam: *Gekko gecko* (Linnaeus), *G. palmatus* Boulenger, *G. ulikovskii* Darevsky & Orlov; *G. badenii* Szczerbak & Nekrasova, *G. grossmanni* Günther, and *Gekko scientiaventura* Rösler *et al.* (Bobrov & Semenov 2008), although the specific distinctness of *G. badenii* and *G. ulikovskii* has been called into question (Nguyen *et al.* 2009). *Gekko chinensis* Gray, has also been included in the Vietnamese fauna by Nguyen *et al.* (2005, 2009) and Rösler *et al.* (2005), but was excluded by Bobrov & Semenov (2008). In addition, Bourret (1937, 1939) reported *G. japonicus* (Schlegel) from Tonkin, Northern Vietnam, but this specimen has since been identified as a *G. palmatus* with an aberrant pattern of precloacal pores (Ota *et al.* 1995). The status of *G. japonicus* reported from Bắc Thái by Nguyen & Ho (1996) and Bắc Kạn by Nguyen *et al.* (2005) remains uncertain. Although Rösler *et al.* (2005) retained *G. japonicus* as a member of the Vietnamese fauna, it was not