Zootaxa 2336: 51–60 (2010)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Geckkonidae) from Xizang Autonomous Region, China

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Abstract

A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* described from Nyemo County, Xizang Autonomous Region, China is here referred to a new species, *Cyrtodactylus zhaoermii* **sp. nov.** It is distinguished from all other *Cyrtodactylus* by the following characters: dorsal surface of the body with fine granules intermixed with larger sub-conical tubercles arranged into 20 more or less regular rows; proximal subdigital lamellae transversely expanded; 19–20 subdigital lamellae on toe IV; 30–32 mid-body ventral scales; most scales in femoral region small, granular, series of 12–14 enlarged femoral scales lacking pores; a series of precloacal pores (4) present in male; tail with distinct segments, large, posteriorly directed tubercles in whorls, numbering nine to ten per caudal annulus, three on each side and three to four on the dorsum, situated at the posterior edge of each annulus; subcaudals not transversely expanded. The new species is the fourth *Cyrtodactylus* known from Xizang Autonomous Region.

Key words: *Cyrtodactylus*; Gekkonidae; China; New species; Squamata; Xizang Autonomous Region

Introduction

The bent-toed geckos of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* are widely distributed in southeastern Asia and adjacent areas, reaching northern Australia and western Melanesia (Kraus, 2007). With more than 100 described species *Cyrtodactylus* is among the world's most speciose gecko genera and many new species have been described recently (Hayden, *et al.*, 2008; Heidrich, *et al.*, 2007; Linkem, *et al.*, 2008; Ngo & Bauer, 2008; Roesler & Glaw, 2008; Xuan, *et al.*, 2007). Although many species have been reassigned to other genera such as *Tenuidactylus, Cyrtopodion, Mediodactylus, Nactus,* and *Geckoella* (Kluge, 1983; Kluge, 2001; Szczerbak, 1984), the number of species currently in this genus continues to grow.

The composition of the genus remains somewhat questionable, however, as certain taxa of uncertain affinities occurring in northern India and adjacent regions, including *Gonydactylus martinstollii* Darevsky and Szczerbak,1997, *G. markuscombaii* Darevsky and Szczerbak, 1997, *G. nepalensis* Schleich & Kästle, 1998 and *Cyrtodactylus mansarulus* Duda & Sahi, 1978 have been assigned to different genera (Bauer *et al.*, 2003). Another series of uncertain species is the so called Tibeto- Himalayan group (Szczerbak & Golubev, 1986), which can not be classified into any currently recognized genus or subgenus. The Tibeto-Himalayan group, in many characters, is transitional between East Asian naked-toed geckos of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* and the Palearctic thin-toed geckos of the genus *Tenuidactylus* (=*Cyrtopodion*, sensu, Anderson, 1999). However, despite the presence of some ancestral characters, this group is generally regarded as closely related to the latter genus and is considered as being within its limits (Szczerbak & Golubev, 1986). During the last two decades, several new members of the Tibeto-Himalayan group have been described from the circum-Himalayan region, mostly from Pakistan (Khan, 1980; Khan, 1993; Khan & Baig, 1992; Krysko, *et al.*, 2007).

Accepted by A. Bauer: 21 Oct. 2009; published: 15 Jan. 2010