



## A new species of *Gekko* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Tà Kóu Nature Reserve, Binh Thuan Province, Southern Vietnam

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### Abstract

A new species of *Gekko* Laurenti is described from Tà Kóu Mountain, an isolated granitic peak in Tà Kóu Nature Reserve, Ham Thuan Nam district, Binh Thuan province, southern Vietnam. The species is distinguished from its congeners by its moderate size, with snout to vent length (SVL) reaching a maximum 107.0 mm; dorsal pattern of 5–8 white vertebral blotches between the nape and sacrum and 6–8 pairs of short white bars on the flanks; 11–14 precloacal pores in males; 14–17 longitudinal rows of smooth dorsal tubercles; and 18–20 broad lamellae beneath the fourth toe. *Gekko takouensis* **sp. nov.** is the second endemic gekkonid discovered in the Tà Kóu Nature Reserve, *Cyrtodactylus takouensis* Ngo & Bauer being the first.

**Key words:** Conservation, *Gekko takouensis* **sp. nov.**, granitic outcrop, Tà Kóu Mountain, Vietnam

### Introduction

The last decade has seen a dramatic increase in the number of gekkotan species described from Vietnam and 21 of the 22 new species described since 2000 are endemic (Geissler *et al.* 2009; Grismer & Ngo 2007; Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Hoang *et al.* 2007; Nazarov *et al.* 2008; Ngo 2008; Ngo & Bauer 2008; Ngo *et al.* 2008; Ngo & Ziegler 2009; Nguyen *et al.* 2006; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Orlov *et al.* 2008; Rösler *et al.* 2005; Ziegler *et al.* 2002; Ziegler *et al.* 2008). The majority of these newly described geckos have limited distributions occurring on offshore islands or in isolated, rocky terrain such as karst outcrops and limestone caves. Most have been within the genera *Cyrtodactylus* Gray and *Cnemaspis* Strauch but two new *Goniurosaurus* Barbour, a new *Dixonius* Bauer, Good & Branch and three new *Gekko* Laurenti have also been described (Ngo *et al.* 2009; Ngo & Ziegler 2009; Rösler *et al.* 2005; Rösler *et al.* 2010; Ziegler *et al.* 2008).

There are 14 species of *Gekko* in Indochina (Bauer *et al.* 2008; Bobrov 1995; Darevsky & Orlov 1994; Grossmann & Ulber 1990; Günther 1994; Ngo *et al.* 2009; Ota *et al.* 1995; Rösler *et al.* 2005; Rösler *et al.* 2010; Szczerbak & Nekrasova 1993; Taylor 1962). Eight occur in Vietnam: *Gekko gecko* (Linnaeus), *G. palmatus* Boulenger, *G. ulikovskii* Darevsky & Orlov; *G. badenii* Szczerbak & Nekrasova, *G. grossmanni* Günther, *Gekko scientiadvventura* Rösler, Ziegler, Vu, Herrmann & Böhme *Gekko canhi* Rösler, Nguyen, Doan, Ho, Nguyen & Ziegler, 2010 and *G. russelltraini* Ngo, Bauer, Wood & Grismer (Bobrov & Semenov 2008; Ngo *et al.* 2009, Rösler *et al.* 2010). *Gekko chinensis* (Gray) and *G. japonicus* (Schlegel) have historically been listed as occurring in Vietnam but their presence is doubtful (Ota *et al.* 1995).

Recent surveys conducted on Tà Kóu Mountain, an isolated peak in Binh Thuan Province, southern Vietnam, have uncovered two new gecko species. *Cyrtodactylus takouensis* was described by Ngo & Bauer (2008) and here we describe another of the genus *Gekko* from the same region.