



Another new, diminutive Rock Gecko (*Cnemaspis* Strauch) from Peninsular Malaysia and a discussion of resource partitioning in sympatric species pairs

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Abstract

A new, diminutive species of Rock Gecko, *Cnemaspis shahruli* **sp. nov.** from Penang Island, Penang; Pulau Jerejak, Penang; Pulau Pangkor, Perak; and the adjacent mainland at Sungai Sedim, Kedah was previously confused with juveniles of the sympatric, endemic species *C. affinis* (Stoliczka) on Penang Island. *Cnemaspis shahruli* **sp. nov.** is diagnosed from all other Southeast Asian *Cnemaspis* on the basis of several unique aspects of squamation, coloration, and body size. It is proposed that this new species has a more extensive mainland distribution than is presented here based on its southernmost record on Pulau Pangkor, Perak. A pattern of resource partitioning on the basis of body size, habitat, and activity period among sympatric species pairs of *Cnemaspis* is discussed.

Key words: New species, taxonomy, karst, granite, rainforest

Introduction

Southeast Asian Rock Geckos (genus *Cnemaspis* Strauch) comprise one of the fastest growing lizards groups in all of Asia with no less than 32 species having been described within the last seven years (Chan & Grismer 2008; Chan *et al.* 2010; Das & Grismer 2003; Grismer 2010; Grismer & Chan 2008, 2009, 2010; Grismer & Das 2006; Grismer & Ngo 2007; Grismer *et al.* 2008a,b, 2009, 2010a,b; J. Grismer *et al.* 2010). The confluence of new diagnostic character states, taxonomic re-evaluations of previously described species, and access into unexplored regions and unique habitats have produced a wealth of new information surrounding these secretive, scansorial, morphologically conserved, forest-dwelling lizards (see Grismer *et al.* 2009, 2010b for a summary). The discovery of the diminutive species *C. pseudomcguirei* Grismer, Norhayati, Chan, Belabut, Muim, Wood & Grismer from Bukit Larut, Perak, Malaysia was surprising in that it bore a striking resemblance to juveniles of the much larger, nearly syntopic *C. mcguirei* with which it had been previously confused. More importantly, it brought to light the first discussion of a peculiar pattern of body size and ecological disparity among closely sympatric species pairs that may be related to resource partitioning (Grismer *et al.* 2009).