



## A new spiny, prehensile-tailed species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Peninsular Malaysia with a preliminary hypothesis of relationships based on morphology

L. LEE GRISMER<sup>1,8</sup>, SHAHRUL ANUAR<sup>2</sup>, EVAN QUAH<sup>2</sup>, MOHD ABDUL MUIN<sup>3</sup>,  
CHAN KIN ONN<sup>4</sup>, JESSE L. GRISMER<sup>5</sup> & NORHAYATI AHMAD<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biology, La Sierra University, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, California, 92515-8247 USA.  
E-mail: lgrismer@lasierra.edu

<sup>2</sup>School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Minden, Penang, Malaysia. E-mail: shahrulanuar@gmail.com.  
E-mail: evanquah@yahoo.com

<sup>3</sup>Centre for Drug Research, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Minden, Penang, Malaysia. E-mail: mamuin@gmail.com

<sup>4</sup>Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. E-mail: kin\_onn@yahoo.com

<sup>5</sup>Department of Biology, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085.  
E-mail: jesse.grismer@villanova.edu

<sup>6</sup>School of Environment and Natural Resource Sciences Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 43600 Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. E-mail: noryati@ukm.my

<sup>7</sup>Corresponding author

### Abstract

A new species, *Cyrtodactylus durio* **sp. nov.**, is described from northwestern Peninsular Malaysia on the basis of its head, body, limbs, and tail being extremely spinose as well as other unique combinations of squamation and color pattern. It is proposed that *C. durio* **sp. nov.** forms a clade with *C. brevipalmatus*, *C. elok*, *C. spinosus*, and *C. stresemanni* on the basis of having a spiny, prehensile tail and that it is the sister species of *C. stresemanni* based on unique caudal tuberculation. *Cyrtodactylus durio* **sp. nov.** is the latest in a growing list of new species of amphibians and reptiles recently described from the Malay Peninsula, and Peninsular Malaysia in particular, that clearly underscores the need for continuing exploratory research in these regions.

**Key words:** Reptilia, *durio*, *elok*, *brevipalmatus*, *spinosus*, *stresemanni*, Malay Peninsula, phylogeny

### Introduction

The lizard genus *Cyrtodactylus* is the most speciose group of gekkonids to date (The JCVI/TIGR Reptile Data Base; <http://www.reptile-database.org>) and the remarkable frequency at which new species are being described shows no signs of leveling off (e.g. Bauer 2002, 2003; Bauer *et al.* 2002, 2003, 2009; Chan & Norhayati 2010; Geissler *et al.* 2009; Grismer 2005, Grismer & Leong 2005; Grismer & Norhayati 2009; Grismer *et al.*, 2008b; Hayden *et al.* 2008; Hoang *et al.* 2007; Heidrich *et al.* 2007; Kraus 2007; Linkem *et al.* 2008; Ngo & Bauer 2008; Nazarov *et al.* 2008; Ngyuen *et al.* 2006; Oliver *et al.* 2009; Orlov *et al.* 2007; Pauwels *et al.* 2004; Rösler & Glaw 2008; Rösler *et al.* 2007; Youmans & Grismer 2006; Welton *et al.* 2009; Zeigler *et al.* 2002). *Cyrtodactylus* are generally forest-dwelling lizards noted for their slender, inflected digits, long limbs and associated terrestrial to scansorial habits. This combination of characters is likely to have contributed to this group's widespread radiation throughout tropical South Asia, Indochina, the Philippines, and the Indo-Australian Archipelago to as far east as the Solomon Islands (Bauer & Henle 1994). There are at least 26 species of *Cyrtodactylus* currently recognized from the Sunda Shelf region of Southeast Asia that collectively range from the Isthmus of Kra, Thailand (*sensu* Hughes *et al.* 2003) southward to