



A new species of *Dibamus* (Squamata: Dibamidae) from Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, southwestern Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia

THY NEANG^{1,2,8}, JEREMY HOLDEN^{2,3}, TOBY EASTOE^{2,4}, RATHEA SENG^{2,5},
SAVENG ITH⁶ & L. LEE GRISMER⁷

¹Department of National Parks, Ministry of Environment, 48 Samdech Preah Sihanouk, Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

²Fauna & Flora International (FFI), Cambodia. # 19, Street 360, BKK1, Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

³E-mail: Jeremy_holden1@yahoo.co.uk

⁴E-mail: tobyeastoe@gmail.com

⁵Department of International Conventions and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia.

E-mail: ratheaseng2007@gmail.com

⁶Center for Biodiversity Conservation, Room 415, Faculty of Science, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Confederation of Russia Boulevard, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. E-mail: ithsaveng@yahoo.com

⁷Department of Biology, La Sierra University, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, California 92515 USA.

E-mail: lgrismer@lasierra.edu

⁸Corresponding author. E-mail: neangthy@yahoo.com

Abstract

A new species of legless lizard, *Dibamus dalaiensis* **sp. nov.** of the family Dibamidae is described from Phnom Dalai in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, southwestern Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia, based on the following unique combination of characters: maximum SVL 127.6 mm; tail 18–22% of SVL; a single postocular scale; three scales bordering the posterior edge of first infralabial; an enlarged, medial, sublabial scale; labial and nasal sutures complete; rostral suture present but incomplete; 20 midbody scale rows; 22 scale rows just posterior to head and 20 scale rows just anterior to vent; 185–209 ventrals; and 48–52 subcaudal scales. The discovery of *D. dalaiensis* **sp. nov.** represents a new family, genus and species record for Cambodia.

Key words: Cambodia, Dibamidae, genus, herpetofauna, legless lizard, new species, reptile, systematics

Introduction

Legless lizards of the Southeast Asian genus *Dibamus* were, for many years, known from fewer than 12 species and currently range from the Philippines, New Guinea (Smith 1935), Malaysia, Indonesia (Duméril & Bibron 1839; Schlegel 1858; Bleeker 1860; Greer 1985; Manthey & Grossmann 1997; Das & Yaakob 2003), Indochina (Smith 1921; Angel 1935), Thailand (Taylor 1962) and westward to India (Das 1996). The other dibamid, *Aneolytropsis papillosus*, restricted to northeastern México, has been known for more than a century (Cope 1885). Owing to their fossorial lifestyle, little is known about the life history of this peculiar group of lizards and some of the material deposited in reference collections have been accessioned with incorrect identities for nearly a century (Das & Lim 2005, 2009).

The recent upsurge in field surveys and subsequent construction of species inventories (Daresky 1992; Diaz *et al.* 2004; Das & Lim 2005, 2009) have resulted in the discovery and description of additional species of *Dibamus*, bringing the current total to 21 with the most recent species, *Dibamus tebal*, being described by Das and Lim (2009) from Indonesia. *Dibamus* is particularly diverse in Indochina and the Indomalayan region with 10 species having been reported from Indonesia (Das & Lim 2003, 2005, 2009; Greer 1985 and references therein), three from Malaysia (Greer 1985; Das & Yaakob 2003; Diaz *et al.* 2004), two from Thailand (Taylor 1962; Honda *et al.* 1997), and six from Vietnam (Angel 1935; Daresky 1992; Ineich 1999; Honda *et al.* 2001). The previous lack of records