



## A new karstic cave-dwelling *Cyrtodactylus* Gray (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Northern Vietnam

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### Abstract

A new species of bent-toed gecko, *Cyrtodactylus cucphuongensis* **sp. nov.** is described from the karst forest of Cuc Phuong National Park, Ninh Binh province, Northern Vietnam. It differs from all other species of Indo-Chinese *Cyrtodactylus* by the following combination of characters: SVL 96.0 mm; absence of precloacal and femoral pores; 19 subdigital lamellae on first toe, 24 on fourth toe; large, dark spots on top of head; wide, prominent nuchal band; and five or six dark, irregular, broad bands between limb insertions.

**Key words:** *Cyrtodactylus*, Gekkonidae, description, new species, Cuc Phuong National Park, Ninh Binh

### Introduction

At least 44 species of the gekkonid genus *Cyrtodactylus* are reported from Indochina – Thai region (Uetz *et al.* 2011). A total of 31 new species have been described from this region in the past decade. Of these, 19 species occur in Vietnam: *Cyrtodactylus badenensis* Nguyen *et al.*, *C. bichnganae* Ngo & Grismer, *C. caovansungi* Orlov *et al.*, *C. cattienensis* Geissler *et al.*, *C. chauquangensis* Hoang *et al.*, *C. cryptus* Heidrich *et al.*, *C. eisenmanae* Ngo, *C. grismeri* Ngo, *C. huynhi* Ngo & Bauer, *C. hontreensis* Ngo *et al.*, *C. martini* Ngo, *C. nigriocularis* Nguyen *et al.*, *C. phongnhakebangensis* Ziegler *et al.*, *C. phuquocensis* Ngo *et al.*, *C. pseudoquadrivirgatus* Rösler *et al.*, *C. roesleri* Ziegler *et al.*, *C. takouensis* Ngo & Bauer, *C. yangbayensis* Ngo & Chan, and *C. ziegleri* Nazarov *et al.*; seven in Thailand: *Cyrtodactylus auribalteatus* Sumontha *et al.*, *C. chanhomeae* Bauer *et al.*, *C. dumnuui* Bauer *et al.*, *C. erythropros* Bauer *et al.*, *C. sumonthai* Bauer *et al.*, *C. thirakhupti* Pauwels *et al.*, *C. tigroides* Bauer *et al.*; and five from Laos: *Cyrtodactylus buchardi* David *et al.*, *C. lomyenensis* Ngo & Pauwels, *C. pageli* Schneider *et al.*, *C. teynieii* David *et al.*, and *C. wayakonei* Nguyen *et al.*

Extensive field surveys were conducted in various karst forests in Northern Vietnam during September 2007, July 2008 and July 2009, resulting in the description of two new species of karst-dwelling *Cyrtodactylus*, i.e. *C. bichnganae* from Son La province and *C. martini* from Lai Chau province. A third *Cyrtodactylus* which was collected from the karst forest in Cuc Phuong National Park, Nho Quan district, Ninh Binh province could not be ascribed to any known species and is described herein as new.

### Materials and methods

Locality data was taken with a Garmin III GPS. The holotype was photographed using a LINUX DMC-FZ30 digital camera and liver tissue was taken prior to preservation and stored in 95% ethanol. Specimens were then fixed with 10% formalin, rinsed in water and subsequently stored in 70% ethanol. The holotype has been deposited at the Institute of Tropical Biology Collection of Zoology (ITBCZ), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.