



## Another new *Gekko* species (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from southern Vietnam

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### Abstract

We describe a new species of the gekkonid genus *Gekko* from southern Vietnam on the basis of three adult specimens from Cuc Dong Cape, Ninh Hoa District, Khanh Hoa Province. *Gekko truongi* sp. n. is distinguished from congeners by the combination of the following characters: medium-sized species with a maximum 95.9 mm SVL; supralabials 13–15; postmentals enlarged; interorbitals 45–58; dorsal tubercles absent; well developed lateral folds; scales between mental and cloaca 160–172; ventrals 35 or 36; subdigital lamellae below first toe 11–13, below fourth toe 15–17; faint basal webbing between fingers and toes; precloacal pores in males 10 or 11; postcloacal tubercles in males 1/1; number of transverse dorsal scale rows in the middle of the third caudal whorl 11; a prominent light postocular stripe is lacking; dorsum grey with dark pattern and light blotches and lines.

**Key words:** Squamata, Gekkonidae, *Gekko truongi* sp. n., taxonomy, Khanh Hoa Province, southern Vietnam.

### Introduction

In their comprehensive review of the herpetofauna of Vietnam, Nguyen *et al.* (2009) listed eight species of the genus *Gekko* as being present: *Gekko badenii* Szczerbak & Nekrasova, 1994; *G. chinensis* Gray, 1842; *G. gecko* (Linnaeus, 1758); *G. grossmanni* Günther, 1994; *G. japonicus* (Schlegel in Dumeril & Bibron, 1836); *G. palmatus* Boulenger, 1907; *G. scientiadventura* Rösler, Ziegler, Vu, Herrmann & Böhme, 2005; and *G. ulikovskii* Darevsky & Orlov, 1994. However, the occurrence of *G. chinensis* and *G. japonicus* in Vietnam has been questioned (Ota *et al.* 1995, Rösler *et al.* 2010), and *G. ulikovskii* recently has been evaluated as representing a synonym of *G. badenii* (Nguyen *et al.* 2010). Recently, in a comprehensive review of the genus *Gekko*, *G. reevesii* Gray, 1831 was revalidated by Rösler *et al.* (2011). In addition, five new *Gekko* species were added to Vietnam's herpetofauna in the past three years: *G. russelltraini* Ngo, Bauer, Wood & Grismer, 2009, *G. takouensis* Ngo & Gamble, 2009, *G. vietnamensis* Nguyen, 2010, and *G. canaensis* Ngo & Gamble, 2011 from the south of the country, and *G. canhi* Rösler, Nguyen, Doan, Ho, Nguyen & Ziegler, 2010, from northern Vietnam (Ngo & Gamble 2009, 2011; Ngo *et al.* 2009; Nguyen 2010, Rösler *et al.* 2010). During recent field work in Cuc Dong Cape, Ninh Hoa District, Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam, three *Gekko* representatives have been collected, which proved to be new to science by morphological reasons and which are described in the following as new species.

### Material and methods

After euthanization and fixation, the type series was preserved in 70% ethanol and subsequently deposited in the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR), Hanoi, and in the Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK), Bonn.

Measurements are as follows: SVL = snout vent length, TL = tail length, AG = distance between axilla and groin, HL = maximum head length (from tip of snout to posterior margin of auricular opening), HW = maximum head width, HH = maximum head height, SE = distance from snout tip to anterior margin of eye, EE = distance