A new species of *Hemiphyllodactylus* (Reptilia: Gekkonidae) from northern Vietnam

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Abstract

We describe a new species of the genus *Hemiphyllodactylus* on the basis of four specimens from Cao Bang Province, northern Vietnam. *Hemiphyllodactylus zugi* sp. nov. is distinguished from the remaining congeners by a combination of the following characters: a bisexual taxon; average SVL of adult males 41 mm, of adult female 46.6 mm; chin scales bordering mental and first infralabial distinctly enlarged; digital lamellae formulae 3-4-4-4 (forefoot) and 4-5-5-5 (hindfoot); femoral and precloacal pore series continuous, 18–21 in total in males, absent in female; cloacal spur single in males; dorso-trunk pattern of dark brown irregular transverse bands; dark lateral head stripe indistinct; upper zone of flank with a series of large light spots, edged above and below in dark grey; caecum and gonadal ducts unpigmented.

Key words: Slender Gecko, karst forest, phylogeny, taxonomy, Cao Bang Province, Ha Lang District

Introduction

The genus *Hemiphyllodactylus* contains nine species worldwide but only *H. yunnanensis* Boulenger, 1903 is currently known from Vietnam (Zug 2010). However, the taxonomic status of this species remains unresolved (Zug 2010). Four subspecies, viz. *H. typus chapaensis* Bourret, 1937 from Lao Cai Province (Vietnam), *H. yunnanensis longlingensis* Zhou & Liu, 1981 (in Zhou et al. 1981) and *H. yunnanensis jinpingensis* Zhou & Liu, 1981 (in Zhou et al. 1981) from Yunnan Province, and *H. yunnanensis dushanensis* Zhou & Liu, 1981 (in Zhou et al. 1981) from Guizhou Province (China) were synonymized with *H. yunnanensis* by Zug (2010). This author subsequently recognized two forms of *H. yunnanensis*: the highland populations from southern China and adjacent northern Southeast Asia from Myanmar to Vietnam and another form (“lowland” populations) from Southeast Asia and Hong Kong.

During recent field work in the karst forests of Cao Bang Province, northern Vietnam, we collected four specimens of an unnamed gekkonid species, which resembles *H. yunnanensis* but distinctly differs from the latter in morphological and molecular characteristics. Therefore, we describe it as a new species.
Literature cited


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APPENDIX. Specimens examined.


H. typus: Indonesia: Nias Island: ZFMK 20734; Mauritius: Maskaren Island ZFMK: 25350.