A new forest-dwelling Bent-toed Gecko (Squamata: Gekkonidae: Cyrtodactylus) from Doi Inthanon, Chiang Mai Province, northern Thailand

KIRATI KUNYA1, MONTRI SUMONTHA2, NONN PANITVONG1, WUTTIPONG DONGKUMFU1, THANSA SIRISAMPHAN1 & OLIVIER S. G. PAUWELS5,6
1Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo, 111 M. 1, Ratchasima-Pak Tongchai Rd., Chaimongkol, Mueang, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000, Thailand. E-mail: kkunya@yahoo.com
2Ranong Marine Fisheries Station, 157 Saphanpla Rd., Paknam, Mueang, Ranong 85000, Thailand. E-mail: montri.sumontha@gmail.com
3siamensis.org, 408/144 Phaholyothin Place Bldg 34FL, Phaholyothin Rd., Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand. E-mail: npanitvong@gmail.com
4Doi Inthanon National Park, 119 M. 7 Ban Luang Sub-district, Jom Thong District, Chiang Mai Province 50160, Thailand. E-mail: w.peak60@hotmail.com
5Département des Vertébrés Récents, Institut Royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
6Corresponding author. E-mail: osgpauwels@yahoo.fr

Abstract

We describe a new forest-dwelling Cyrtodactylus from Doi Inthanon, Chiang Mai Province, northern Thailand. Cyrtodactylus inthanon sp. nov. is characterized by a maximum known SVL of 87.3 mm; 18 to 20 longitudinal rows of dorsal tubercles; a continuous series of 34 to 37 enlarged femoro-precloacal scales, including four to six pitted (female) or pore-bearing (male) scales on each femur separated by a diastema from five pitted (females) or pore-bearing (male) precloacal scales; no precloacal groove or depression; transversely enlarged subcaudal scales; and three to five irregular beige dorsal bands between limb insertions. The discovery of a new reptile endemic to Doi Inthanon reinforces the high importance of this mountain in terms of biodiversity conservation.

Key words: Cyrtodactylus inthanon sp. nov., taxonomy, new species, Doi Inthanon National Park

Introduction

With its summit culminating at 2565 m a.s.l., Doi Inthanon is the highest mountain of Thailand and shows a forest species composition that is unique in the country (Khamyong et al. 2004). Its reptile fauna has never been thoroughly investigated, and few records are available and are mostly undocumented (Nabhitabhata et al. 2004, Nabhitabhata & Chan-ard 2005). No Cyrtodactylus has been so far reported. Pursuing our taxonomic work and field surveys on this genus, that have already brought to light the existence of several micro-endemics in the mountains of northern Thailand (Bauer et al. 2009, 2010, Ellis & Pauwels 2012, Kunya et al. 2014, Pauwels et al. 2014), we visited Doi Inthanon and encountered a population that is distinct from all known congeners in scalation and color pattern. This population is consequently described hereafter as a new species, Cyrtodactylus inthanon sp. nov.

Material and methods

Measurements and meristic counts follow Sumontha et al. (2012), Panitvong et al. (2014), Pauwels & Sumontha (2014) and Pauwels et al. (2014). Paired meristic characters are given left/right. Numbers of supralabial and infralabial scales are counted from the largest scale immediately posterior to the dorsal inflection of the posterior portion of the upper jaw to the rostral and mental scales, respectively. The number of longitudinal rows of body
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References


APPENDIX. Comparative material examined.