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Two new species of the genus *Goniurosaurus* (Squamata: Sauria: Eublepharidae) from southern China

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Abstract

Two new species of large geckos in the genus *Goniurosaurus* are described based on specimens collected from karst areas of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, southern China: *Goniurosaurus kadoorieorum* **sp. nov.** and *Goniurosaurus kwangsiensis* **sp. nov.** Data on natural history of the new species are provided, as well as discussions on the current conservation status of *Goniurosaurus* species in southern China. Due to the popularity of this genus as novelty pets, and recurring cases of scientific descriptions driving herpetofauna to near-extinction by commercial collectors, we do not disclose the collecting localities of these restricted-range species in this publication. However, such information has been presented to relevant government agencies, and is available upon request by fellow scientists.

Key words: Eublepharidae, *Goniurosaurus*, new species, taxonomy, Guangxi, Southern China

Introduction

The eublepharid genus *Goniurosaurus* occurs throughout southern East Asia with disjunct geographic distribution; species are known from northeastern Vietnam including Cat Ba Island, southern China including Hainan Island, and the Ryukyu Archipelago of Japan (Wang *et al.* 2014). Herpetofaunal surveys in northern Vietnam and southern China resulted in the discovery of eight new *Goniurosaurus* species in the past two decades (Grismer *et al.* 1999, 2002; Orlov *et al.* 2008; Ziegler *et al.* 2008; Wang *et al.* 2010, 2013, 2014), and in a phylogenetic study of *Goniurosaurus* species in the Ryukyu Archipelago, Honda *et al.* (2014) reported the presence of two undescribed taxa within the *Goniurosaurus kuroiwae* species group; these studies indicate species diversity of the genus *Goniurosaurus* is still underestimated. Based on morphological and phylogenetic studies, 15 taxa within four major species groups are widely recognized at present (Grismer *et al.* 1999, 2002; Honda *et al.* 2014; Wang *et al.* 2013, 2014): (1) the *G. lichtenfelderi* group composed of *G. lichtenfelderi* (Mocquard) from northern Vietnam and *G. hainanensis* Barbour from Hainan Island; (2) the *G. kuroiwae* group composed of five taxa from the Ryukyu Archipelago of Japan; (3) the *G. luii* group composed of *G. araneus* Grismer, Viets & Boyle from northeastern Vietnam and southwestern Guangxi, *G. bawanglingensis* Grismer, Shi, Orlov & Ananjeva from Hainan Island, *G. catbaensis* Ziegler, Nguyen, Schmitz, Stenke & Rösler from Cat Ba Island of Vietnam, *G. huuliensis* Orlov, Ryabov, Nguyen, Nguyen & Ho from northern Vietnam, *G. liboensis* Wang, Yang & Grismer from the border region between Guangxi and Guizhou Provinces and *G. luii* Grismer, Viets & Boyle from southwestern Guangxi; and (4) the *G. yingdeensis* group composed of *G. yingdeensis* Wang, Yang & Cui and *G. zhelongi* Wang, Jin, Li & Grismer from northwestern Guangdong. As listed, seven species are hitherto recorded from China.

The first record of the genus *Goniurosaurus* from Guangxi was reported by Wen (1983), which was identified as “*G. lichtenfelderi*” in all early accounts of the genus from China (Li *et al.* 1995; Zhao & Adler 1993; Zhao *et al.* 1999). But it is now believed that *G. lichtenfelderi* only occurs in northern Vietnam (Ziegler *et al.* 2008; Wang *et al.* 2014). Two new species, *G. luii* and *G. liboensis*, were later described from Guangxi by Grismer *et al.* (1999) and Wang *et al.* (2013), respectively. With the discovery of *G. araneus* from Guangxi by Chen *et al.* (2014), three members of *Goniurosaurus*, all karst specialists, are now confirmed to occur in Guangxi. During our field surveys