



A new species of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, 1827 from central Laos (Squamata: Gekkonidae)

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Abstract

A new species of the gekkonid genus *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, 1827, *Cyrtodactylus teyniei* **spec. nov.**, is described based on a single adult female from Borikhamxay Province, central Laos. It is distinguished from any other *Cyrtodactylus* species by the combination of the following characters: (1) SVL 89.9 mm, (2) longitudinal rows of dorsal tubercles 19, (3) ventral scales in 38 rows between ventrolateral skin folds, (4) ventrolateral skin folds without tubercles, (5) enlarged femoral and precloacal scales 54 (precloacal scales 8, plus 23 femoral scales on each side), (6) precloacal depression lacking, (7) precloacal pores 14, (8) subdigital lamellae under the fifth toe 19–20, (9) enlarged median subcaudals, and (10) nuchal band absent, dorsum with blotched pattern. An extended comparison with other species of the genus *Cyrtodactylus*, in particular species recently described from Laos and Vietnam, is provided. *Cyrtodactylus teyniei* **spec. nov.** is the seventh species of *Cyrtodactylus* known to occur in Laos.

Key words: Laos, Reptiles, Squamata, Gekkonidae, *Cyrtodactylus*, *Cyrtodactylus teyniei* **spec. nov.**, taxonomy

Introduction

Few reptile genera have seen as high an increase in the number of described species as the gekkonid genus *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, 1827. This genus, widely represented in the Indian Region, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region, eastwards to the Solomon Islands, currently contains 131 species (The Reptile Database, <http://www.reptile-database.org>. Last accessed on September 20th, 2010; complemented by Mahony 2009; Ngo *et al.* 2010; Ngo and Grismer 2010; Ngo and Pauwels 2010), of which not less than 69 have been described since the year 2000 inclusive. The total number of species is to be compared with the number given in David *et al.* (2004), which was then amounting “only” to 77 species. *Cyrtodactylus* is by far one of the most speciose genera of Squamata (Bauer 2002, 2003). Several of the recently described species have a very limited range and are distinguished by a combination of subtle differences in morphological characters, making this genus taxonomically challenging. Most species of *Cyrtodactylus* are slender, small or medium sized species inhabiting forests and rocky areas.

During the past decade, i.e. from 2000 onwards, a remarkable number of new species was described from Vietnam (17 species), mostly on the slopes of the Truong Son Range, from West Malaysia (11), Myanmar (10), and Thailand (6). David *et al.* (2004) described a new species from South Laos as *Cyrtodactylus buchardi* (see also Teynié and David 2010). Nguyen *et al.* (2010) described another new species from northern Laos as *C. wayakonei*, and most recently Ngo and Pauwels (2010) described *C. lomyenensis* from southern Laos. The present paper deals with a specimen collected in 2010 in Borikhamxay Province, central Laos (Teynié and David 2010: 69–71). This specimen can be referred to the genus *Cyrtodactylus* on the basis of its dorsal and ventral scalation and other characters defined, for example, by Smith (1935), Bauer (2002, 2003), and Ziegler *et al.* (2010), but cannot be referred to any of the species known from Laos, Vietnam or other countries. Thus, we herein describe the single adult female as new species.