



Redescription of two Bornean gekkonid lizard species of the *Cyrtodactylus consobrinus* (Peters, 1871) complex with comments on online supplementary material

Hayden R. DAVIS¹, Izneil NASHRIQ², Kyra S. WOYTEK¹, Shanelle A. WIKRAMANAYAKE³, Aaron M. BAUER^{4,*}, Benjamin R. KARIN⁵, Ian G. BRENNAN^{6,7}, Djoko T. ISKANDAR⁸ & Indraneil DAS²

¹Department of Biology and Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA 98195

✉ hrdavis1@uw.edu; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1401-1221>

✉ kyraw2@uw.edu; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7084-4511>

²Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia

✉ izneilnshrq@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3849-7732>

✉ idas@unimas.my; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9522-2228>

³Department of Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA 80521

✉ Shanelle.Wikramanayake@colostate.edu; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6236-1851>

⁴Department of Biology and Center for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Stewardship, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA, USA 19085

✉ aaron.bauer@villanova.edu; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6839-8025>

⁵Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and Department of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA 94720

✉ benkarin@berkeley.edu; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7936-7099>

⁶Division of Ecology and Evolution, Research School of Biology, ACT 2602, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

⁷Current address Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK

✉ iangbrennan@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4416-5224>

⁸Basic Sciences Commission, Indonesian Academy of Sciences, Jakarta, Indonesia

✉ dtiskandar@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8923-6081>

*Corresponding author

Abstract

In a recent paper in *Zoologica Scripta*, the formal diagnoses and descriptions of two new Bornean gekkonid gecko species of the *Cyrtodactylus consobrinus* (Peters, 1871) complex were included in online supplementary material. Although the new nomina were associated with *ZooBank* registration identifiers, the supplementary document in which these LSIDs appeared was not published in a format with fixed content and layout. As such, the new nomina cannot be considered to have been promulgated in the electronic version of the paper, as it was not compliant with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* as amended in 2012. A subsequently published printed version of the paper did make these nomina nomenclaturally available but, following author guidelines, relegated the descriptions and diagnoses, including data critical to justifying recognition of these new cryptic taxa, to online supplementary material. Because of the impermanence of this supplementary document, we here provide the diagnoses, descriptions and type specimen data for these two *Cyrtodactylus*. We recommend that taxonomists refrain from publishing works containing taxon descriptions and

other nomenclatural acts in journals that require critical data to be placed in online supplementary documents.

Key words

SQUAMATA, GEKKONIDAE, cryptic species, availability, *ZooBank* registration.

1. Introduction

As a result of an Amendment (Anonymous 2012) to the *International Code on Zoological Nomenclature* (Anonymous 1999), the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature allowed for the electronic publication of *nomenclatural novelties*, including new nomina (scientific names as recognized and regulated in the *Code*). While online publication of nomenclatural works has since become common, it has also opened a Pandora's box of problems (Dubois *et al.* 2013; Dubois & Aescht 2016, 2017). Although many publishers, editors and authors quickly became aware that electronic publication was permitted after 2012, a large number seemingly ignored the precise conditions that must be met for nomina to satisfy the requirements of availability under the *Code* as amended. Dubois *et al.* (2013) outlined the shortcomings of the Amendment that could result in a lack of compliance and ultimately to extensive confusion.

Dubois *et al.* (2013, 2022) have identified numerous sources of errors that have resulted from sequelae to electronic publication, some of which may be specific to particular journals because of editorial policy or lack of oversight (e.g., Dubois *et al.* 2013; Dubois & Frétey 2023). Many problems stem from non-compliance with the requirement for *ZooBank* registration. For journals publishing versions simultaneously in print and online, this causes little difficulty as the availability of new nomina will be provided by the hard copy version, even in the absence of *ZooBank* registration. For journals that publish online versions in advance of print copies, the problems may be “temporary” in that nomina proposed may take their availability from the print copy (if there are no other confounding issues, but see Dubois *et al.* 2013, 2022), although the delays between online and print can be significant and newly available nomina may already be junior synonyms by the time the hardcopy is published. This presupposes, however, that the earlier online version qualifies as a valid publication and not a prepublication draft, which cannot provide availability to nomenclatural acts therein (Dubois *et al.* 2013, 2015, 2022; Krell 2015; Dubois 2020).

Even if *ZooBank* registration has been duly obtained, opportunities exist for other errors or omissions by authors or editors to result in non-*Code* compliance and these may even be exacerbated by journal editorial policy. A case in point is the requirement for the relegation of descriptions and diagnoses to online supplementary material, as is the case for the journal *Zoologica Scripta*, currently published by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd on behalf of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The journal publishes an online version (ISSN: 1463-6409) and a print version (ISSN: 0300-3256) in six bimonthly issues per year. The Author Guidelines for *Zoologica Scripta*¹ state that “Species descriptions and diagnoses should be placed in supplementary material [...]. Since space of the printed paper is at premium, the journal requires that material such as large data sets, extra colour illustrations, species descriptions, extended taxonomic information (including new classifications), bibliographies, video material, or any other supporting material shall

1 <<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14636409/homepage/forauthors.html>>.