

A NEW SPECIES OF *DIXONIUS* (SAURIA: GEKKONIDAE) FROM SOUTHERN VIETNAM

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ABSTRACT. – A new species of *Dixonius* is described from Nha Trang, southern Vietnam. The new species reaches an SVL of 42.4 mm, and is diagnosable from congeneric species in showing the following combination of characters: head wider than long in adults; two supranasals in narrow contact; dark canthal stripe present, but terminating at back of head; lips unbarred; and dorsum of body and tail brownish olive, with dark blotches.

KEY WORDS. – *Dixonius vietnamensis*, new species, systematics, Reptilia, Sauria, Nha Trang, Vietnam.

INTRODUCTION

Dixonius was established by Bauer et al. (1997) for Asian gekkonids formerly placed in the genus *Phyllodactylus*, on the basis of morphology and its disjunct distribution. Rösler (2000) and Kluge (2001) recognised two species within the new Asian genus: *melanostictus* Taylor, 1962 (type locality: “Mauk Lek Road-Camp (Friendship Highway), Sara Buri” [14° 35’N; 101° 05’E; eastern Thailand; spelling of type locality emended to Muak Lek by Taylor, 1962: 218]; FMNH 178231 (holotype) and FMNH 178232 (paratype) and *siamensis* Boulenger, 1898 (type locality: “Dung Phya Fai, Siam...at an altitude of 700 feet” = Dong Paya Fai Mountains, 14° 30’N; 101°–102° 40’E, Sara Buri and Nakhon Ratchasima Provinces, eastern Thailand, mostly protected as Khao Yai National Park and Tap Lan National Park; BMNH 1946.8.24.40–41; two syntypes; and “Siam” [= Thailand]; BMNH 97.3.31.1–2; two syntypes).

Malcolm A. Smith (1930: 20, 1935: 81) treated two other names, *paviei* Mocquard, 1904, and *burmanicus* Annandale, 1905, as synonymous with *siamensis*. The holotype of *paviei*, is from “Vatana” (= Chaeng Wattana, ca. 13° 45’N, 100° 31’E: a northern suburb of Bangkok, across the highway from the airport, Phra Nakhon Province, Thailand is MNHN 1885.349; Brygoo, 1990). The holotype of *burmanicus*, reported to be in “Calcutta” (= Indian Museum Reptile Registry, the collection now accessioned with the ZSI, Kolkata, India) by M. A. Smith (1935), and collected at “Tavoy” (at present Dawei, 14° 04’N, 98° 12’E, Taninthayi State, southern Myanmar), is at present untraced in the collection of the ZSI (Das et al., 1998). These synonymies have been followed by subsequent workers (e.g., Wermuth, 1966; Kluge, 1993, 2001). Nonetheless, additional species

remain to be recognised within this genus, as colour variation, reported by Taylor (1963; see also Chan-Ard et al., 1999) and genetic evidence provided by Ota et al. (2001) suggest. Indeed, most recently, Bauer et al. (2004) described a third species, *hangseesom*, from near Ban Tha Sao (Sai Yok Noi Waterfall), 14°06’N 99°25’E” (CUZM R 2003.58, holotype; CUZM R 2003.57; 60, 6; three paratypes); and “Thailand, Kanchanaburi Province, Sai Yok National Park” (ZMB 65437, paratype), Sai Yok District, Kanchanaburi Province, Sai Yok District.

The genus *Dixonius* has also been reported from Vietnam in the literature. Tirant (1904) presented what was known of the saurofauna of Indo-China at the time, but did not list this taxon. Nguyen and Ho (1996: 17) reported *siamensis* from “Gia Lai (Chú Sê)” (13° 59’N, 108° 00’E), presumably following the concept of Taylor (1963: 753), as did Bobrov (1992, 1993, 1995), who reported the species as occurring in South Annam, although it is unclear whether specimens were actually examined.

I report here a fourth species of the genus *Dixonius* from the eastern coast of southern Vietnam on the basis of two adults and two hatchlings. Generic allocation follows Bauer et al. (1997), who diagnosed *Dixonius* as showing the following suite of characters: digits bearing a single pair of enlarged terminal scanzors; dorsal scalation tuberculate; tubercles keeled longitudinally; granules on snout larger than those on dorsum of body; rostral scale with median cleft; first supralabial enters nostril; enlarged chinshields and lateral gulars; margins of pupil crenellate (in preserved specimens); preanal pores present; series of cloacal spurs present; and midventral row of transversely enlarged caudal scales.