

## New record of peninsular bent-toed gecko in Singapore

**Subject:** Peninsular bent-toed gecko, *Cyrtodactylus semenanjungensis* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor & L. Lee Grismer.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, forest at the end of Rifle Range Road; 25 October 2007; 1951 hrs.

**Habitat:** Secondary forest.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** An individual of about 12 cm total length was observed crawling among leaf litter on the forest floor (see picture below).



Photograph by Nick Baker

**Remarks:** This observation represents the first record of *Cyrtodactylus semenanjungensis* in Singapore. The species was previously known only from the lowland forests in the south-eastern corner of Peninsular Malaysia (Grismer & Leong, 2005).

In Singapore, *Cyrtodactylus semenanjungensis* is sympatric with *Cyrtodactylus majulah* with which it can be confused, but distinguishable by colour pattern. *Cyrtodactylus semenanjungensis* has a dorsal body pattern consisting of large, transversely aligned, well-defined dark brown blotches that occasionally contact one another to form irregular bands. Most notably, the ends of the anteriormost body band join with dark, lateral stripes on

the neck to connect with the posterior portion of a dark, nuchal loop which is continuous and contacts the rear margins of each eye. A dark spot on the nape is enclosed between the lateral stripes. The species has no preloacal pores (Grismer & Leong, 2005: 587; Grismer, 2011: 434). *Cyrtodactylus majulah* differs in having a blotched dorsal body pattern without the afore-mentioned markings on the nape and shoulders, and 7 to 11 preloacal pores (Grismer et al., 2012).

From studies of museum material, *Cyrtodactylus quadrivirgatus* on Singapore Island has recently been recognised as a distinct species and named *Cyrtodactylus majulah* by Grismer et al. (2012). The identification of the subject in the attached picture as *Cyrtodactylus semenanjungensis*, despite the absence of a preserved voucher specimen, is an unexpected addition to the herpetofaunal diversity of the country. There are presently four species of *Cyrtodactylus* recorded in Singapore. The third is the Peter's or thin-banded bent-toed gecko, *Cyrtodactylus consobrinus*, which seems to be locally confined to the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (Baker & Lim, 2012: 79). The fourth species, the banded bent-toed gecko, *Cyrtodactylus pulchellus*, in the absence of verifiable material, is regarded as a doubtful record in Singapore even though Singapore is supposed to be its type locality (Grismer, 2011: 424; Baker & Lim, 2012: 168).

#### References:

- Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte Ltd. & Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.
- Grismer, L. L., 2011. *Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Their Description, Distribution, and Natural History*. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.
- Grismer, L. L. & T. M. Leong, 2005. New species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from southern Peninsular Malaysia. *Journal of Herpetology*. 39 (4): 584-591.
- Grismer, L. L., P. L. Jr. Wood & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Cyrtodactylus majulah*, a new species of bent-toed gecko (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Singapore and the Riau Archipelago. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 60 (2): 487-499.

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