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NEW RECORDS OF *DOPASIA GRACILIS* (SQUAMATA: ANGUIDAE) IN BACH MA NATIONAL PARK, THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE

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This article describes the morphological characteristics of *Dopasia gracilis* (Gray, 1845) from Bach Ma National Park, Thua Thien-Hue province. The number of specimens in Bach Ma is bigger compared to description of Smith in 1935, and also Nguyen et al. in 2011. In Vietnam, *D. gracilis* has been reported from the following provinces: Cao Bang, Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Quang Binh, Quang Ngai and Gia Lai. So, in Bach Ma National Park it is the first record of this species distribution.

Keywords: *Dopasia gracilis*, *Anguidae*, *Bach Ma National Park*, *morphological characteristics*, *distribution*.

NOI ÎNREGISTRĂRI ALE *DOPASIA GRACILIS* (SQUAMATA: ANGUIDAE) ÎN PARCUL NAȚIONAL BACH MA, PROVINCIA THUA THIEN-HUE

În articol sunt descrise caracteristicile morfologice ale speciei *Dopasia gracilis* (Gray, 1845) din Parcul Național Bach Ma, provincia Thua Thien-Hue. Numărul specimenelor din Bach Ma este cu mult mai mare în comparație cu descrierea elaborată de Smith în 1935 și de Nguyen et al. în 2011. În Vietnam, *D. gracilis* a fost raportat în următoarele provincii: Cao Bang, Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Quang Binh, Quang Ngai și Gia Lai. Deci, în Parcul Național Bach Ma distribuția acestei specii este înregistrată pentru prima dată.

Cuvinte-cheie: *Dopasia gracilis*, *Anguidae*, *Parcul Național Bach Ma*, *caracteristici morfologice*, *distribuție*.

Introduction

The genus *Ophisaurus* comprises 12 species [1], among them from North and Central America there are five species, Asia comprises six species and the North Afrika contains only one species. Conrad & Norell [2] and Conrad et al. [3] proposed to use genus *Dopasia* for anguid species in the East and South-East Asia, because of the difference between *Dopasia harti* (Boulenger, 1899) and *Pseudopus apodus* (Pallas, 1775) with characteristics of genus *Ophisaurus*. At present, the genus *Dopasia* includes 7 species: *D. buttikoferi* (Lidth de Jeude, 1905), *D. gracilis* (Gray, 1845), *D. hainanensis* (Yang, 1984), *D. harti* (Boulenger, 1899), *D. lidovici* (Mocquard, 1905), *D. sokolovi* (Darevsky & Nguyen, 1983) and *D. wegneri* (Mertens, 1959) [1].

In Vietnam, the genus *Dopasia* comprises three species: *D. gracilis* (Gray, 1845), *D. harti* (Boulenger, 1899), *D. sokolovi* (Darevsky & Nguyen, 1983) [4]. In the review of the genus *Dopasia* (Gray, 1853), in the Indochina subregion, Nguyen et al. [5] five species are recorded: *D. gracilis* (Gray, 1845), *D. harti* (Boulenger, 1899), *D. sokolovi* (Darevsky & Nguyen, 1983), *D. hainanensis* (Yang, 1983) and *D. ludovici* (Mocquards, 1905), including specimen in Vietnam.

Bach Ma NP is located in Phu Loc and Nam Dong districts of Thua Thien-Hue province and a part of Dong Giang district, Quang Nam province. This is the end of the zoogeography of North-Central Vietnam. There have been many studies on amphibians and reptiles in Bach Ma NP, conducted by local and foreign authors: Bourret (1927 - 1942), Ngo Dac Chung (1995), Le Vu Khoi et al. (2004), Hoang Xuan Quang et al. (1999, 2007, 2012). In 2012, Hoang et al. [6] recorded *Dopasia sokolovi* (Darevsky & Nguyen) [7] with only specimen, this specimen is preserved in Bach Ma NP. Based on the specimen collected from recent field work in 2014, we are defided *Dopasia gracilis* (Gray, 1845) for this area.

Material and methods

A specimen of *Dopasia gracilis* collected in 7/2014 in Bach Ma National Park, preserved in Zoological Department, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Hong Duc University, Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam, is analysed.

The following measurements were taken with a digital calliper to the nearest 0.01 mm: SVL = snout-vent length (from tip of snout to vent), Tail = tail length (from vent to tip of tail).

The morphological indicators are: number of supraocular, supraciliaries, supralabial, infralabial, longitudinal scale rows between lateral folds; ventral scales rows; number of scales along lateral fold.

Identification of species based on documents of Smith [8], Darevsky & Nguyen [7], Nguyen et al. [5]. Scientific name by Nguyen et al. (2011).

Results and discussion

Dopasia gracilis (Gray, 1845)

Type locality: Khasi Hills, [now in Meghalaya] India (Brygoo 1987).

Synonym: *Pseudopus gracilis* (J.E. Gray, 1845); *Ophiseps tessellatus* (E. Blyth, 1853); *Ophisaurus gracilis* (G.A. Boulenger, 1885).

Common Name: Asian Glass Lizard, Burmese Glass Lizard.

Vietnamese Name: Thần lằn rắn.

Specimens examination

BM2014-02 (preserved in Zoological Department, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Hong Duc University, Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam), collected in 7/2014 by Cao Thanh Phong in Bach Ma NP at 16°11'N, 107°31'E, elevation: 1.247 m above sea level (Fig.1).

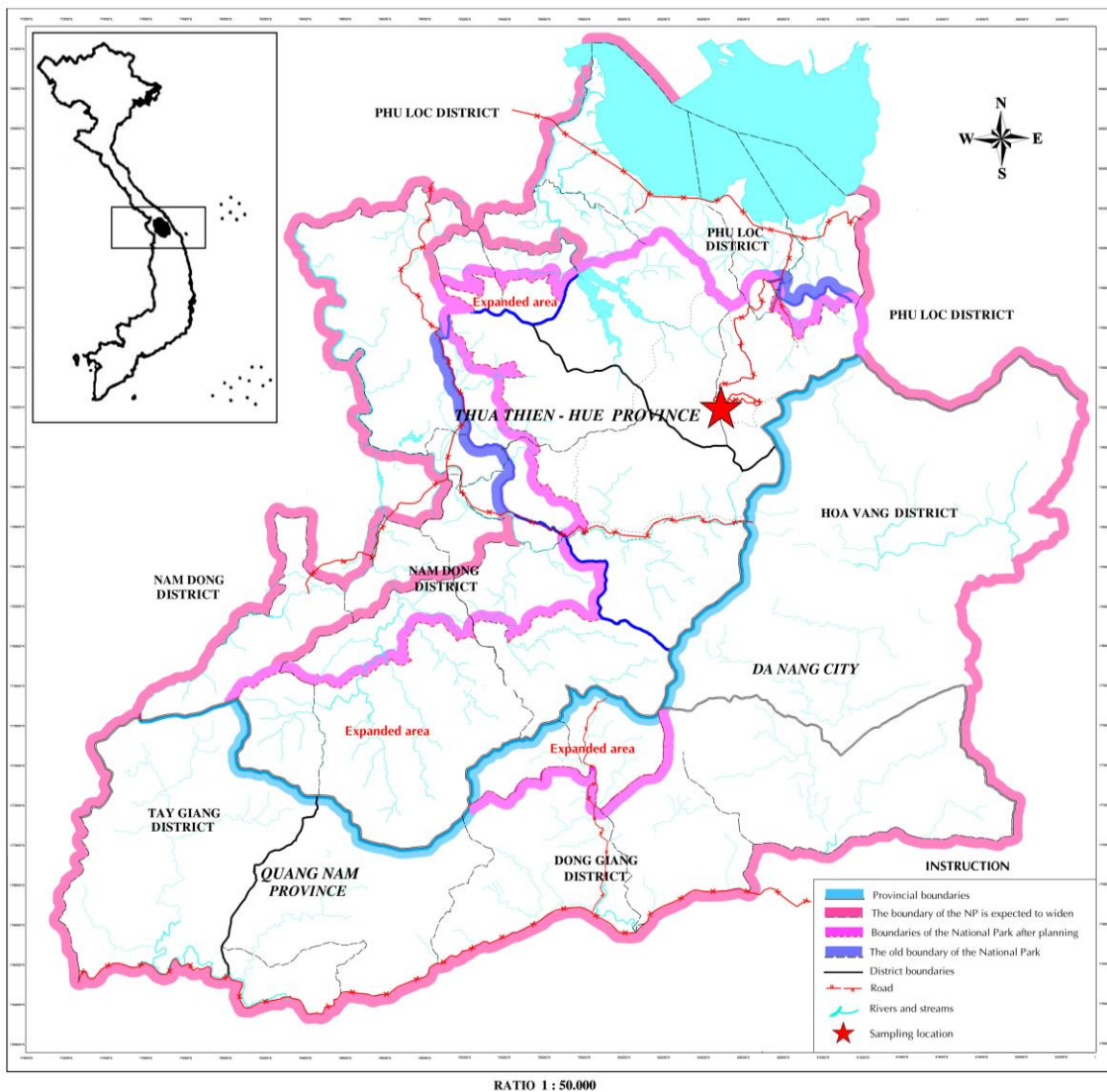


Fig.1. Sampling locality of *Dopasia gracilis* in Bach Ma National Park (red star).

Description

SVL 104.22 mm, Tail 294.85 mm.

Cylindrical body, without limbs; ear opening 1.5 times greater than nostril; nasal separated from fronto-nasal by 3 scales, and separated from rostral by one scale and the first supralabial; prefrontals in contact; 5 supraoculars; 5 supraciliaries; 12 supralabials, first and second bordering nostril; 9 infralabials; mental small, 2/3 times less than rostral; frontal largest, 2 times longer than width, separated from interparietal by one scale.

Dorsal scales strongly keeled; longitudinal scale rows between lateral folds 16; ventral scales in 10 longitudinal rows; number of scales along lateral fold 95.

Tail about 6 times longer than the head and body, the upper scales more strongly keeled than the lower.



Fig.2. *Dopasia gracilis* (BM2014-02) from Bach Ma NP, Thua Thien-Hue province (photograph by Hoang Ngoc Thao).

Coloration in preservative

Dorsal head and body brownish, lightly on the tail; series of small dark spots on anterior part of body, continue with dark band extending along the side to tip of tail, progressively broader posteriorly; narrower stripe in below the lateral fold from angle of jaw to vent, very distinct, this stripe changing to a series of very small spots on tail.

Discussion

Compared with description of Smith [8] and Nguyen et al. [5]: supralabials of specimen in Bach Ma NP is 12, more than specimens in description of Smith (1935) and Nguyen et al. (2011) is 10-11; number of scales along lateral fold 95 in Bach Ma NP, specimen in description of Smith (1935) is 88-94, Nguyen et al. (2011) is 81-88. However, they are still within the diagnosis of the species (scales along lateral fold 81-97).

Distribution: In Vietnam, *D. gracilis* has been reported from Cao Bang (Nguyen Binh) and Gia Lai provinces [4,9]. In 2011, Nguyen et al. recorded additional in Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Quang Binh, and Quang Ngai provinces. Our findings include new records for Bach Ma National Park, Thua Thien-Hue province (Fig.3).

Elsewhere, this species is known from India, Nepal, China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand [4,10,11].



Fig.3. Distribution of *Dopasia gracilis* in Vietnam

- 1) Cao Bang province; 2) Gia Lai provinces; 3) Vi Xuyen district, Ha Giang province;
- 4) Mu Cang Chai district, Yen Bai province; 5) Phong Nha - Ke Bang NP, Quang Binh province;
- 6) Son Ha district, Quang Ngai province; 7) Bach Ma NP, Thua Thien-Hue province.

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