



Review of the genus *Dopasia* Gray, 1853 (Squamata: Anguidae) in the Indochina subregion

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Abstract

A review of the genus *Dopasia* Gray, 1853 in the Indochina subregion is provided with the first country record of *D. hainanensis* for Vietnam and new distribution records for other species. In addition, we herein confirm the validity of *Dopasia ludovici*, previously a synonym of *D. harti*, based on overlooked external morphological differences.

Key words: China, Vietnam, new record, morphology, taxonomy

Introduction

According to Uetz (2010), the genus *Ophisaurus* comprises 12 species grouped in three clades. The New World clade contains five species from North and Central America: *Ophisaurus attenuatus* Baird, 1880; *O. ceroni* Holman, 1965; *O. compressus* Cope, 1900; *O. mimicus* Palmer, 1987; and *O. ventralis* (Linnaeus, 1766). The Asian clade comprises six species distributed from northern India through the Indochinese peninsula southwards to Indonesia: *Ophisaurus buettikoferi* Lidth de Jeude, 1905; *O. gracilis* (Gray, 1845); *O. hainanensis* Yang, 1983; *O. harti* Boulenger, 1899; *O. sokolovi* Darevsky & Nguyen, 1983; and *O. wegneri* Mertens, 1959. The North African clade contains only one species, *O. koellikeri* (Günther, 1873), which was removed to the monotypic genus *Hyalosaurus* Günther, 1873 by Macey *et al.* (1999), based on molecular phylogenetic analyses. Another Asian taxon, *Ophisaurus ludovici* Mocquard, 1905, was originally described from Bao Lac, Tonkin (now in Cao Bang Province, northern Vietnam) (Smith 1935), but was long considered a synonym of *O. harti* (e. g., Pope 1929; Smith 1935; Bourret 2009; Nguyen *et al.* 2009). Based on the number of vertebrae from the atlas to the remnants of the hind limb, Brygoo (1987) thought *O. ludovici* to represent a distinct species, which was followed by Bobrov (1995, 2008), and Bobrov and Semenov (2008). In terms of generic assignment, Conrad (2008) and Conrad *et al.* (2010) verified that *Dopasia harti* (Boulenger, 1899) and *Pseudopus apodus* (Pallas, 1775) are separated from *Ophisaurus*. Therefore, we hereafter use the generic name *Dopasia* for the East and Southeast Asian anguid species.

Based on new material and data from recent field work in Vietnam and examination of specimens from China, we herein provide a review of the genus *Dopasia* in the Indochina subregion. We report new distribution records for *D. hainanensis*, *D. gracilis*, and *D. sokolovi*, and we discuss the validity of *D. ludovici*.