# Integrative taxonomic and geographic variation analyses in Cyrtodactylus aequalis (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from southern Myanmar (Burma): one species, two different stories 

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#### Abstract

The historical accuracy of building taxonomies is improved when they are based on phylogenetic inference (i.e., the resultant classifications are less apt to misrepresent evolutionary history). In fact, taxonomies inferred from statistically significant diagnostic morphological characters in the absence of phylogenetic considerations, can contain nonmonophyletic lineages. This is especially true at the species level where small amounts of gene flow may not preclude the evolution of localized adaptions in different geographic areas while underpinning the paraphyletic nature of each population with respect to the other. We illustrate this point by examining genetic and morphological variation among three putatively allopatric populations of the granite-dwelling Bent-toed Gecko Cyrtodactylus aequalis from hilly regions in southeastern Myanmar. In the absence of molecular phylogenetic inference, a compelling argument for three morphologically diagnosable species could be marshaled. However, when basing the morphological analyses of geographic variation on a molecular phylogeny, there is a more compelling argument that only one species should be recognized. We are cognizant of the fact however, that when dealing with rare species or specimens for which no molecular data are possible, judicious morphological analyses are the only option-and the desired option given the current worldwide biodiversity crisis.


Keywords Taxonomy; phylogeny; phylogeography; Gekkonidae; Asia; conservation

## Introduction

Taxonomy-the description and naming of species-has become increasingly more sophisticated and exacting within the context of integrative frameworks (Aherns et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2019; Mathews et al., 2008; Padial et al., 2010; Slater et al., 2013). This is especially true with the incorporation of judiciously used genetic data which can couple species delimitation with phylogeny (e.g., Pons et al., 2006; Sukumaran and Knowles, 2017; Schield et al., 2018; Watson et al., 2019), thus eliminating a myriad of phyletic problems when trying to delimit species using only traditional taxonomic methods based solely on morphology (Watson et al., 2019). Furthermore, integrative analyses can be used to identify weakly divergent clades bearing significant phenotypic differentiation (or the reverse) and to assess early stages of speciation (Hu et al., 2019). Nonetheless, morphology remains a critical component of taxonomy and the types of analyses performed on morphological data bear on the taxonomic interpretation of the outcome. This is especially true when examining multiple populations that may or may not be conspecific, may or may not be allopatric, and show only limited amounts of intra- or interpopulation genetic variation. Under these
circumstances, which are the appropriate integrative analytical tools to delimit putative species and what does one do when the analyses do not necessarily agree? We explore some of these issues in a species of Bent-toed Gecko (Cyrtodactylus aequalis) endemic to southeastern Myanmar.

In recent years, Cyrtodactylus Gray has rapidly become the most species rich lizard genus in Myanmar with the description of 28 new species in just under two years (Connette et al., 2017; Grismer et al., 2018a, b, c, d, e, f; Grismer et al., 2019a, b, 2020). One species, C. aequalis was described on the basis of a single specimen from the base of Kyaiktiyo Mountain in Mon State at 382 m in elevation (Bauer, 2003). However, the phylogenetic relationships and life history of C. aequalis remained unknown until Grismer et al. (2018a) reported on a second specimen taken from within the crack of a granite boulder on the top of Kyaiktiyo Mountain at 1057 m in elevation (Fig. 1) and placed it within what they designated as the C. sinyineensis group-a clade of karst-associated species largely endemic to the low-lying Salween Basin in Kayin and Mon states. Their most recent molecular phylogeny (Grismer et al., 2019c), recovered C. aequalis as most closely related to the karst-dwelling sister species C. bayinnyiensis and

[^0]C. dattkyaikensis. In that report, Grismer et al. (2020) reported on a series of 15 additional specimens of $C$. aequalis from the same upland granitic region that included juveniles and a gravid female with a SVL of 87.1 mm . They also reported on four additional specimens from a newly discovered population 28 km to the south at Kay Lar Thaa granitic hill reaching 350 m in elevation isolated in an agricultural flood plain at the head of the Gulf of Martaban (Fig. 1). All four specimens were collected among granite boulders and one was a gravid female with an SVL of 68.0 mm . The specimens of this population composed the reciprocally monophyletic sister lineage to the Kyaiktiyo Mountain population but with only a $0.01 \%$ uncorrected pairwise sequence divergence between them even though they had significantly different mean values in a number of morphological characters (Grismer et al., 2020). Based on these data, Grismer et al. (2020) refrained from formally recognizing the Kay Lar Tha population as a distinct species, referring to it as $C$. cf. aequalis, and noting that any formal taxonomic recognition could not be properly evaluated in the absence of additional samples from intervening geographic areas.

We recently traveled to Kou Thi Nar Youn, an upland granite area 23 km southeast of Kyaiktiyo and 16 km m northeast of Kay Lar Tha reaching 307 m in elevation (Fig. 1). We collected a series of 11 specimens among granitic boulders including a gravid female with an SVL of 78.4 mm . We also examined seven additional specimens of C. aequalis from the vicinity of the type locality at the base of Kyaiktiyo Mountain from between 49 m and 395 m in elevation. Herein, we examine the phylogeographic structure among the three populations using the mitochondrial gene NADH dehydrogenase subunit 2 (ND2) and its flanking tRNA regions. Independent of their phylogeographic structure, we examined geographic variation among the three populations using a battery of comparative multivariate and univariate statistical analyses on meristic (scalation) and mensural (morphometrics) data sets. We compare and discuss the results of these analyses and their taxonomic implications.

## Materials and methods

## Species delimitation

The general lineage concept (GLC: de Queiroz, 2007) adopted herein proposes that a species constitutes a population of organisms evolving independently from other such populations owing to a lack of gene flow. By "independently," it is meant that new mutations arising in one species cannot spread readily into another species (Barraclough et al., 2003; de Queiroz, 2007). Integrative studies on the nature and origins of species are using an increasingly wider range of empirical data to delimit species boundaries (Coyne and Orr, 1998; Fontaneto et al., 2007; Knowles and Carstens, 2007; Leaché et al., 2009), rather than relying solely on morphology and traditional taxonomic methods. Under the GLC implemented herein, molecular phylogenies were used to recover monophyletic mitochondrial lineages of individuals (populations)
in order to develop initial species-level hypotheses-the grouping stage of Hillis (2019). Discrete color pattern characters and univariate and multivariate analyses of morphological data were then used to search for characters and morphospatial patterns bearing statistically significant differences that were consistent with the phylogeny-based species-level hypotheses-the construction of boundaries representing the hypothesis-testing step of Hillis (2019) thus providing independent diagnoses to complement the molecular analyses. Species boundaries were subsequently cross-checked using a Generalized Mixed Yule Coalescent (GMYC) approach (Pons et al., 2006), thus providing an additional framework to complement the empirically based hypotheses of the morphological and molecular analyses.

## Molecular data and analyses

The primary aim of this study was to investigate the taxonomic implications of the phylogeographic structure and geographic variation among the three populations of Cyr todactylus aequalis based on 1482 bp of ND2 and its flanking tRNAs (WANCY region) and meristic and mensural morphological data. The molecular data set of Grismer et al. (2020), which included exemplars of all the major Cyrtodactylus clades in Wood et al. (2012) and Agarwal et al. (2014) and all species of the C. sinyineensis group to which C. aequalis belongs, was augmented with 11 samples from Kou Thi Nar Youn totaling 330 ingroup samples. Hemidactylus angulatus, H. frenatus, H. garnotii, $H$. mabouia, and $H$. turcicus served as outgroups following Wood et al. (2012) and Grismer et al. (2019c). The new C. aequalis sequences were deposited in GenBank (Table 1).

Genomic DNA was isolated from liver or skeletal muscle specimens stored in $95 \%$ ethanol using a SPRI magnetic bead extraction protocol (https://github.com/phyletica/ lab-protocols/blob/master/extraction-spri.md). The ND2 gene was amplified using a double-stranded Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) under the following conditions: $1.0 \mu \mathrm{l}$ genomic DNA $(10-30 \mu \mathrm{~g}), 1.0 \mu \mathrm{l}$ light strand primer (concentration $10 \mu \mathrm{M}$ ), $1.0 \mu \mathrm{l}$ heavy strand primer (concentration $10 \mu \mathrm{M}), 1.0 \mu \mathrm{l}$ dinucleotide pairs $(1.5 \mu \mathrm{M}), 2.0 \mu \mathrm{l}$ 5 x buffer $(1.5 \mu \mathrm{M}), \mathrm{MgCl} 10 \mathrm{x}$ buffer $(1.5 \mu \mathrm{M}), 0.1 \mu \mathrm{l} \mathrm{Taq}$ polymerase $(5 \mathrm{u} / \mu \mathrm{l})$, and $6.4 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ultra-pure $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$. PCR reactions were executed on Bio-Rad gradient thermocycler under the following conditions: initial denaturation at $95^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2 min , followed by a second denaturation at $95^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 35 s , annealing at $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 35 s , followed by a cycle extension at $72^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 35 s , for 31 cycles. All PCR products were visualized on a $1.0 \%$ agarose gel electrophoresis. Successful PCR products were sent to GENEWIZ® for PCR purification, cycle sequencing, sequencing purification, and sequencing using the same primers as in the amplification step (Table 2). Sequences were analyzed from both the 3 ' and the 5 ' ends separately to confirm congruence between reads. Forward and reverse sequences were uploaded and edited in Geneious ${ }^{\text {TM }} 2019.0 .4$ (https://www .geneious.com). Following sequence editing we aligned the protein-coding region and the flanking tRNAs using


Figure 1. Maximum likelihood consensus tree of the Cyrtodactylus sinyineensis group with 1.00 and 100 BI and UFB support values, respectively, at the nodes designated by black circles. The gray vertical bars delimit three lineages of a polytomy. Map showing the localities of the three areas where the populations of $C$. aequalis are located.
the MAFTT v7.017 (Katoh and Kuma, 2002) plugin under the default settings in Geneious ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ 2019.0.4 (https://www .geneious.com). Mesquite v3.04 (Maddison and Maddison, 2015) was used to calculate the correct amino acid reading frame and to confirm the lack of premature stop codons in the ND2 portion of the DNA fragment.

We used both maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian inference (BI) to estimate the phylogenetic relationships among the sampled geckos in our sequence alignment. An ML phylogeny was estimated in the W-IQ-TREE webserver (Nguyen et al., 2015; Trifinopoulos et al., 2016) preceded by the selection of a substitution

Table 1. GenBank accession numbers for the newly recorded specimens of Cyrtodactylus aequalis used in the molecular phylogenetic analyses based on ND2. Accession numbers for outgroups are in Agarwal et al. (2014) and for the other species of the Cyrtodactylus sinyineensis group see Grismer et al. (2019c).

| Taxon | Catalog no. | Locality | GenBank no. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14491 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917682 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14492 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917683 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14493 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917684 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14494 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917685 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14495 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917686 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14496 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917687 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14497 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917688 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14498 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917689 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14499 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917690 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14500 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917691 |
| Cyrtodactylus aequalis | LSUHC 14501 | Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar (N 17.29775, E 97.21665) | MN917692 |

Table 2. Primer sequences used for amplification and sequencing of the ND2 gene and the flanking tRNAs.

| Primer name | Primer reference |  | Sequence |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| L4437b | (Macey et al., 1997) | External | 5'-AAGCAGTTGGGCCCATACC-3' |
| H5934 | (Macey et al., 1997) | External | 5'-AGRGTGCCAATGTCTTTGTGRTT-3', |

model using the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) in ModelFinder (Kalyaanamoorthy et al., 2017), which supported $\mathrm{K} 2 \mathrm{P}+\mathrm{I}+\Gamma 4$ as the best fit model of evolution for the tRNAs and $\mathrm{HKY}+\mathrm{F}+\Gamma 4$ for ND2 codon position one, HKY+F+I for position 2, and TIM2+F for position 3. One-thousand bootstrap pseudoreplicates via the ultrafast bootstrap (UFB; Hoang et al., 2018) approximation algorithm were employed and nodes having ML UFB values of 95 and above were considered highly supported (Minh et al., 2013). A Bayesian inference (BI) phylogenetic analysis was carried out in MrBayes 3.2.3. on XSEDE (Ronquist et al., 2012) through the CIPRES Science Gateway (Cyberinfrastructure for Phylogenetic Research; Miller et al., 2010) employing default priors and models of evolution that most closely approximated those in the ML analysis: $\mathrm{K} 2 \mathrm{P}+\mathrm{I}+\Gamma 4$ for the tRNAs and $\mathrm{HKY}+\Gamma$ for ND2 codon position one and HKY+I for positions 2 and 3. Two independent Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) analyses were performed each with four chains, three hot and one cold. We ran the MCMC simulation for 150 million generations, sampled every 15 thousand generations and discarded the first $25 \%$ of each run as burn-in. Convergence and stationarity of all parameters from both runs were checked in Tracer vl.6 (Rambaut et al., 2014) to ensure effective sample sizes (ESS) were above 200. Post-burn-in sampled trees from both runs were combined and a $50 \%$ majority-rule consensus tree was constructed. Nodes with Bayesian posterior probabilities of 0.95 and above were considered highly supported (Huelsenbeck et al., 2001; Wilcox et al., 2002). After removing outgroup taxa, MEGA7 (Kumar et al., 2016) was used to calculate uncorrected pairwise sequence divergence among the individuals of $C$. aequalis.

An ultrametric tree was estimated using in BEAST v2.4.6 (Bayesian Evolutionary Analysis Sampling Trees; Drummond et al., 2012) and was used to perform the

Generalized Mixed Yule Coalescent (GMYC) approach to species delimitation (Pons et al., 2006). The settings of the BEAST analysis were configured in BEAUti version v2.4.7 (Bayesian Evolutionary Analysis Utility) and run with BEAST v2.4.6 on CIPRES employing a lognormal relaxed clock with separate (unlinked) substitution and clock models for the tRNAs and the three codon positions of ND2. Uncertainty in the model of evolution for each partition was averaged over during phylogenetic inference using bModelTest. MCMC chains were run using a coalescent exponential population prior for $150,000,000$ million generations and logged every 15,000 generations. The BEAST log file was visualized and checked in Tracer v1.6.0 (Rambaut et al., 2014) to ensure ESS values were above 200 for all parameters. A maximum clade credibility tree using mean heights at the nodes was generated using TreeAnnotator v.1.8.0 (Rambaut and Drummond, 2013) with a burnin of 1000 trees ( $10 \%$ ).

The Generalized Mixed Yule Coalescent (GMYC) approach is a method for delimiting species from singlelocus, ultrametric gene trees by detecting genetic clustering beyond the expected levels of a null hypothesis which infers that all individuals of a population form a genetically, interacting nexus. In clades where effective population sizes are not necessarily low and divergence times among the populations are not high, the multi-threshold version of the model (such as that used herein) out performs the singlethreshold version (Fujisawa and Barraclough, 2013). The GMYC relies on the prediction that independent evolution leads to the appearance of distinct genetic clusters, separated by relatively longer internal branches (Barraclough et al., 2003; Acinas et al., 2004). Such groups therefore, diverge into discrete units of morphological and genetic variation that are recovered with surveys of higher clades. The analysis was run on a web server at http://species.h-its .org/gmyc/ on 1 October 2019.

## Morphological data and analyses

Character descriptions
Color notes and digital images were taken from living specimens of the three populations of Cyrtodactylus aequalis prior to preservation. Measurements were taken on the left side of the body when possible to the nearest 0.1 mm using Mitutoyo dial calipers under a Nikon SMZ 1500 dissecting microscope. Measurements following Grismer and Grismer (2017) and Grismer et al. (2018a, b) were: snout-vent length (SVL), taken from the tip of snout to the vent; head length (HL), the distance from the posterior margin of the retroarticular process of the lower jaw to the tip of the snout; head width (HW), measured at the angle of the jaws; head depth (HD), the maximum height of head posterior to the eyes measured from the occiput to the ventral margins of the mandibles; eye diameter (ED), the greatest horizontal diameter of the eye-ball; snout length (SNT), measured from anteriormost margin of the boney orbit to the tip of snout; pelvic width (PW), distance between the lateral edges of the dorsal tips of the ilia; pelvic height $(\mathrm{PH})$, distance from the dorsal tip of an ilium to the ventral surface of the pubis; forelimb width (FLW), measured from the anterior to the posterior margins of a brachium immediately adjacent to its insertion points on the body; and forelimb length (FLL), measured from a point equidistant between its anterior and posterior insertion points on the body to the tip of the fourth finger; hind limb width (HLW), measured from the anterior to the posterior margins of a thigh immediately adjacent to its insertion points on the body; hind limb length (HLL), measured from a point equidistant between its anterior and posterior insertion points on the body to the tip of the fourth toe; and axilla to groin length (AG), taken from the posterior margin of the forelimb at its insertion point on the body to the anterior margin of the hind limb at its insertion point on the body.

Meristic characters following Grismer et al. (2020) taken were the numbers of supralabial scales (SL) counted from the largest scale immediately below the middle of the eyeball to the rostral scale and infralabial scales (IL), the large scales counted from the mental scale to the commissure of the jaw; number of paravertebral tubercles (PV) between limb insertions counted in a straight line immediately left and right of the vertebral column and averaged; the number of longitudinal rows of body tubercles (LT) counted transversely across the center of the dorsum from one ventrolateral fold to the other; the number of longitudinal rows of ventral scales (VS) counted transversely across the center of the abdomen from one ventrolateral fold to the other; the number of expanded subdigital lamellae proximal to the digital inflection on the fourth toe (ETL) counted from the base of the first phalanx where it contacts the body of the foot to the largest scale on the digital inflection (see Grismer et al., 2018a: Fig. 3; the large continuous scales on the palmar and plantar surfaces were not counted); the number of small, unmodified subdigital lamellae distal to the digital inflection on the fourth toe (UTL) counted from the digital inflection to the claw (see Grismer et al., 2018a: Fig. 3); and the total number of subdigital lamellae (TTL) beneath the fourth toe
(i.e., $\mathrm{ETL}+\mathrm{UTL}=\mathrm{TTL}$ ). The total number of enlarged femoral scales (FS) from each thigh were combined as a single metric. The total number of femoral pores (FP) in males (i.e., the sum of the number of enlarged porebearing femoral scales from each leg combined as a single metric (n.b. not all enlarged femoral scales have pores). The number of enlarged precloacal scales (PS); the number of precloacal pores in (PP) in males; the number of rows of large post-precloacal scales (PPS) on the midline between the enlarged precloacal scales and the vent (see Grismer et al., 2018a: Fig. 4); and estimate of number of dark body bands (BB) between the occiput and the hind limb insertions not including the sacral or postsacral bands (the irregularly shaped bands in some specimens precludes an accurate count); the number of light-colored caudal bands on an original tail; the number of dark caudal bands on an original tail; and if a mature regenerated tail was spotted or not.

Non-meristic morphological characters evaluated were the degree of body tuberculation-weak tuberculation referring to dorsal body tubercles that are relatively low, small, less densely packed, and weakly keeled whereas prominent tuberculation refers to tubercles that are larger, higher (raised), and prominently keeled (see Grismer et al., 2018a: Fig. 6); body tubercles extending past the postcloacal swelling or not (see Grismer et al., 2018a: Fig. 7); and the relative length-to-width ratio of the transversely expanded, median subcaudal scales and whether or not they extend onto the lateral surface of the tail (see Grismer et al., 2018a: Fig. 8).

Color pattern characters (see Grismer et al., 2018a: Fig. 5) evaluated were the nuchal loop being continuous from eye to eye, separated medially into paravertebral halves, bearing an anterior azygous notch or not, and the posterior border being straight (smooth), sinuous, vshaped, jagged, or having two posteriorly directed projections; dorsal body bands bearing paired, paravertebral elements or not; dark dorsal body bands wider than light interspaces, with or without lightened centers, edged with light-colored tubercles or not, jagged or more regularly shaped (straight or even-edged); dark markings present or absent in the dorsal interspaces; top of head bearing combinations of dark diffuse mottling or dark, distinct blotches overlain with a light-colored reticulating network or not; light caudal bands bearing dark markings or immaculate; light caudal bands encircle tail or not; dark caudal bands wider than light caudal bands or not; and regenerated tail bearing a pattern of distinct, dark spots or not.

## Integrative analysis

The morphological data were used in two separate analyses. The first analysis was completely integrative in that the morphological data were evaluated on the basis of tree topology where monophyletic mitochondrial lineages were considered putative species and composed the operational taxonomic units (OTUs) of the analyses. Various statistical analyses (see below) of these data were employed to ascertain if the different mitochondrial lineages corresponded to populations bearing statistically different morphological


Figure 2. PCA and DAPC discriminant function plots of the total evidence and pruned meristic data sets from the integrative taxonomic analysis. KKTNY = the combined metrics for the Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn populations.
characteristics. For this analysis, the Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn samples were combined into a single OTU (KKTNY) owing to their polytomic relationship (see below). KKTNY was compared only to the Kay Lar Tha population.

Geographic variation analyses
The second analysis assessed geographic variation across the three populations of Cyrtodactylus aequalis regardless
of the phylogenetic substructuring of its individuals. Individuals from each of the three locations were treated as distinct OTUs and compared to one another using various statistical models (see below).

Statistical analyses of morphology
All statistical analyses were performed using the platform R v 3.2.1 (R Core Team, 2018). For both the integrative and geographic variation analyses, separate analyses of


Figure 3. PCA and DAPC discriminant function plots of the total evidence and pruned mensural data sets from the integrative taxonomic analysis. KKTNY = the combined metrics for the Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn populations.
variance (ANOVA) were conducted on meristic and mensural characters with similar variances (i.e., $p \geq 0.05$ in a Levene's test) to test for the presence of statistically significant mean differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in their data sets. Characters bearing statistical differences within the data set were subjected to a TukeyHSD test to ascertain which OTU pairs differed significantly from each other for those particular characters. Histograms and ridge plots were generated using a custom R script in order to visualize the range of variation and the degree of differences between pairs of OTUs bearing significantly different means.

For both the integrative and geographic variation analyses, morphospatial positions were subsequently compared using principal component analysis (PCA) from the ADEGENET package in R (Jombart et al., 2010) to determine if their positioning was consistent with the putative species boundaries delimited by the molecular phylogenetic analyses (in the case of the integrative analysis only) and defined by the univariate analyses. PCA is a dimension reducing algorithm that decreases the complexity of a data set by finding a subset of input variables that contain the most relevant information (i.e., the most variance in the data)


Figure 4. PCA and DAPC plots of the total evidence and pruned meristic data sets from the geographic variation analysis.
while de-emphasizing those characters that do not, thus increasing the overall accuracy of the model by eliminating noise and the potential of overfitting (Agarwal et al., 2007). This is especially true if there are 10 or more dimensions (i.e., characters).

Total evidence and pruned data sets
We ran separate PCAs and discriminant analyses of principal components (DAPC; see below for details) on total
evidence and pruned data sets generated from both the mensural and meristic data in both the integrative and geographic variation frameworks (i.e., a total of eight different analyses). In the first set of analyses, we maximized the dimensionality of the data sets by using all the characters analyzed (the total evidence data set). In the second set of analyses, we reduced the dimensionality of the total evidence data sets, by using only characters that had significantly different mean values between at least one pair


Figure 5. Histograms of the discrete meristic characters from the geographic variation analysis that differ significantly $(\neq)$ in mean values between the species pairs listed on the plots. Mean values are plotted next to their respective vertical dashed lines.
of species as determined by the ANOVA and subsequent TukeyHSD tests (i.e., the pruned data sets). Mensural characters were scaled to SVL in order to completely remove any potential effects of allometry using the following equation: $\mathrm{Xadj}=\mathrm{X}-\beta(\mathrm{SVL}-\mathrm{SVLmean})$, where $\mathrm{Xadj}=$ adjusted value; $\mathrm{X}=$ measured value; $\beta=$ unstandardized regression coefficient for each OTU; and SVLmean = overall average SVL of all OTU's (Thorpe, 1975, 1983; Turan, 1999; Lleonart et al., 2000). Simply dividing each metric by SVL does not eliminate allometry.

PCA, implemented by the $\operatorname{prcomp}()$ command in R, is an indiscriminate analysis plotting the overall variation among individuals (i.e., the data points in the plot) while treating each individual independently (i.e., not coercing data points into pre-defined groups). Because the data in all data sets were potentially skewed by large ranges among the characters, all characters were log transformed and scaled to their standard deviation prior to analysis in order to normalize their distribution so as to ensure characters with very large and very low values did not over-leverage
the results owing to intervariable nonlinearity and to ensure the data were analyzed on the basis of correlation not covariance. In order to determine the number of interpretable PCs (i.e., those that capture the most amount of variation in the data set with the least amount of noise) to retain for downstream analyses prior to PC degeneration (i.e., subsequent PCs represent negligible structure in the data), a modified version of the broken stick model (Cangelosi and Goriely, 2007) which uses a stopping rule (Jackson, 1993), was implemented with the VEGAN package in R (Oksanen et al., 2018) using the bs() command. This analysis produces overlapping curves of eigenvalues and broken stick values and proposes that the number of retained PCs should have eigenvalues higher than their corresponding random broken stick components. Retaining too many variables, forces false structure to appear in the data and retaining too few, runs the risk of missing true structure (Cangelosi and Goriely, 2007). Factor loadings from the retained PCs for each population were then subjected to ANOVA and TukeyHSD tests in order to determine which


Figure 6. PCA and DAPC plots of the total evidence and pruned mensural data sets from the geographic variation analysis.
factor loading means (i.e., the approximation of centroid values) between which species pairs differed significantly ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). This method evaluates whether or not each population occupies a statistically different position along the retained PCs from other populations, thus adding a more quantifiable interpretation of the PCA.

Based on factor loadings from a PCA generated as part of the dapc() command in R, a DAPC was performed on both the integrative and geographic variation data sets. The DAPC places the individuals of each predefined population into separate clusters (i.e., plots of points) bearing the smallest within-group variance that produce linear combinations of centroids having the greatest between-group variance (i.e., linear distance; Jombart et al., 2010). DAPC relies on scaled data from its own internally generated PCA as a prior step to ensure that variables analyzed are not correlated and number fewer than the sample size. Dimension
reduction of the DAPC prior to plotting, is accomplished by retaining the first set of PCs that account for approximately $90 \%$ of the variation in the data set (Jombart and Collins, 2015) as determined from a scree plot.

The raw morphological data for all analyses from the three populations are presented in Tables A1, A2, and A3 and their summary statistics in Table A4 in the Appendix. Uncorrected pairwise sequence divergences are in Table A5.

## Results

Integrative analyses (two OTUs)
The ML and BI analyses recovered trees with identical topologies wherein Cyrtodactylus aequalis is weakly supported as monophyletic (BI 0.91/UFB 71) and most closely


Figure 7. Ridge plots of the continuous mensural characters from the geographic variation analysis that differ significantly $(\neq)$ in adjusted mean values between the species pairs listed above the plots. Mean values are represented by the vertical dashed lines.
related (1.00/100) to the sister species C. bayinnyiensis and C. dattkyaikensis from the Salween Basin of southeastern Myanmar (Fig. 1). The analyses recovered two strongly supported (1.00/100) reciprocally monophyletic lineages within C. aequalis - the Kay Lar Tha population and the combined Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn populations. The latter forms a tricotomy composed of two lineages of individuals from Kyaiktiyo and another lineage from Kou Thin Nar Youn. However, branch lengths among individuals of the three populations are extremely short (nearly indiscernible in Fig. 1) with uncorrected pairwise sequence divergences ranging from $0.000-0.0014 \%$ (Table A5). As such, we consider the polytomous relationship among Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thin Nar Youn and their low genetic divergences ( $0.0001-0.0008 \%$ ) as evidence that they should be considered a single population (KKTNY). Such a pattern aligns well with the topography surrounding their distribution, as gene flow is likely continuous through an arcuate range of low hills and mountains that connect their localities (Fig. 1). Thus, subsequent morphological analyses of $C$. aequalis within the integrative framework are
based only on the Kay Lar Tha and KKTNY lineages (i.e., two OTUs).

The BEAST analysis recovered the same topology as the ML and BI trees and the subsequent GMYC species delimitation analysis recovered the same eight ingroup species of the Cyrotdactylus sinyineensis group delimited by Grismer et al. (2020) and the analyses herein (Fig. 1) with a highly significant likelihood ratio of 20.64461 ( $p=$ $3.289127^{-05}$ ). The GMYC recovered C. aequalis as a single species and did not separate out any of its sublineages of individuals as significantly different genetic clusters beyond the null.

## Meristic data

In the total evidence meristic data set, the PCA showed that the Kay Lar Tha population was completely eclipsed by the KKTNY population along the combined ordination of the first two PCs which accounted for $44.2 \%$ of the variation (Fig. 2). PCl loaded most heavily for IL, LT, VS, and FS, whereas PC2 loaded most heavily for ETL (Table 3). Based on an ANOVA and the subsequent TukeyHSD tests

Principal Component Factor Loadings from the Pruned Meristic Data Set


Principal Component Factor Loadings from the Pruned Mensural Data Set


Figure 8. Factor loadings of $\mathrm{PCl}-\mathrm{PC} 3$ from the pruned geographic variation analyses regressed against latitude.
(Table 4), a pruned data was constructed using only PV and TLE. In the PCA of the pruned data set, the KKTNY and Kay Lar Tha populations plotted separately along the PC1 but the former eclipsed the latter along PC2 (Fig. 2). Both characters loaded nearly equally along both PCs which accounted for $100.0 \%$ of the variation in the data set. The density plots of the first discriminant functions in the DAPC for both the total evidence and pruned analyses mirrored their respective PCAs (Fig. 2).

Mensural data
In the total evidence mensural data set, the PCA showed that the Kay Lar Tha population was completely eclipsed by the KKTNY population along the first two PCs which accounted for $73.8 \%$ of the variation (Fig. 3). PC1 loaded most heavily for SNT, ED, HDW, HLL, FLW, and FLL
whereas PC2 loaded most heavily for HL and HW (Table 5). Based on an ANOVA and subsequent TukeyHSD tests (Table 4), a pruned data set was constructed using only PW and HD. In the PCA of that data set, the KKTNY and Kay Lar Tha populations plotted separately along the $\mathrm{PC1}$ but the former eclipsed the latter along PC2. Both characters loaded equally along both PCs. The density plots of the first discriminant functions in the DAPC for both analyses mirrored their respective PCAs (Fig. 3).

Comparison of PCA centroids
Broken stick models for all four data sets indicated that the most significant amount of variation occurred along the first two components. ANOVAs of the combined factor loadings of PCl and PC 2 for all four data sets recovered no significant differences between any species pairs, meaning
there were no significant differences among the positions of their centroids, indicating these two populations (KKTNY \& Kay Lar Tha) do not differ significantly from one another in multivariate space.

## Geographic variation (three OTUs)

## Meristic data

The PCA of the total evidence meristic data set using the three allopatric populations demonstrated that all three populations show considerable overlap along the first two PCs with closely spaced centroids (Fig. 4). The first two PCs accounted for $44.2 \%$ of the total variation with PCl loading most heavily for IL, LT, VS, and FS and PC2 loading most heavily for ETL (Table 6). Based on an ANOVA and subsequent TukeyHSD tests (Table 4), a pruned data set based on four characters (PT, ETL, LT, FS; Fig. 5) demonstrated slightly less overlap between the Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn populations along the first two PCs which accounted for $67.8 \%$ of the total variation (Fig. 4). PC1 loaded most heavily for LT and FS whereas PC2 loaded most heavily for ETL (Table 7). Broken stick models for both data sets indicated that the most significant amount of variation occurred along the first two components. An ANOVA of the summed factor loadings of PCl and PC 2 in the total evidence meristic data set indicated there were no significant differences between any species pairs, meaning there were no significant differences among the positions of the centroids and that these populations did not differ significantly from one another in morphospace. In the pruned data set, a significant difference (TukeysHSD $p=0.0007$ ) in centroid placement was recovered between the Kyaiktiyo and the Kou Thi Nar Youn populations. The DAPC analyses for each data set showed no overlap in the $95 \%$ confidence ellipsoids among any populations (Fig. 4).

## Mensural data

The PCA of the three populations using the total evidence mensural data set demonstrated reasonable separation among all three populations along the ordination of the first two PCs with widely spaced centroids (Fig. 6). The first two PCs account for $51.1 \%$ of the total variation with PCl loading most heavily for HL, HW, and SNT and PC2 loading most heavily for HLW (Table 8). Based on an ANOVA and subsequent TukeyHSD tests (Table 4), a pruned data composed of eight characters ( $\mathrm{PH}, \mathrm{PW}, \mathrm{HL}$, HD, SNT, ED, HLW, and FLL; Fig. 7) demonstrated less overlap in the clusters of the Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn populations with the first two PCs accounting for $64.2 \%$ of the total variation (Fig. 6). PC1 loaded most heavily for HL, SNT, and FLL and PC2 loaded most heavily for HLW (Table 9).

Broken stick models for both data sets indicated the most significant amount of variation occurred along the first three components. An ANOVA of the summed factor loadings of PC1-PC3 in the total evidence data set recovered no significant differences between any species pairs, indicating there were no significant differences in the centroid positions even though the Kay Lar Tha population clusters separately from the other populations along the

Table 4. Characters recovered by ANOVAs that bear significantly different mean values between population pairs in the meristic and mensural data sets and their subsequent TukeysHSD $p$ values.

| Geographic Variation Analyses |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Kyaiktiyo vs. Kou Thi Nar Youn | Kyaiktiyo vs. Kay Lar Tha | Kou Thi Nar Youn vs Kay Lar Tha |
| LT $(p=0.001)$ | PT $(p=2.21 \mathrm{E}-05)$ | PT $(p=0.001)$ |
| FS $(p=0.008)$ | ETL $(p=0.002)$ | FS $(p=0.05)$ |
| SNT $(p=0.009)$ | SNT $(p=6.66 \mathrm{E}-06)$ | SNT $(p=0.003)$ |
| HL $p=0.003)$ | ED $(p=0.004)$ | ED $(p=0.003)$ |
| PH $(p=0.039)$ | HD $(p=0.041)$ | HD $(p=0.014)$ |
| HLW $(p=0.01)$ | PW $(p=0.089)$ | PW $(p=0.05)$ |
| FLL $(p=0.023)$ | Centroids (PC1-PC3, $p=0.003 ;$ | HLW $(p=0.038)$ |
|  | pruned mensural data set $)$ |  |
| Centroids $($ PC1 \& PC2, $p=0.0007$; pruned meristic data set $)$ |  |  |
| Centroids $($ PCl-PC3, $p=0.003 ;$ pruned mensural data set $)$ |  |  |
| Integrative Taxonomic Analyses |  |  |
| Kyaittiyo vs. KKTNY |  |  |
| PT $(p=1.29-05)$ |  |  |
| ETL $(p=0.003)$ |  |  |
| HD $(p=0.003)$ |  |  |
| PW $(p=0.0003)$ |  |  |

combined ordination of the first two components. However, the ANOVA and subsequent TukeyHSD tests (Table 4) of the pruned data set, recovered the centroid positions between the Kyaitiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn populations and the Kyaiktiyo and Kay Lar Tha populations as significantly different ( $p=0.003$ for both), indicating these population pairs differ significantly from one another in their positions in morphospace. The DAPC analyses for each data set recovered no overlap of the $95 \%$ confidence ellipsoids among any populations except for slight overlap between Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn in total evidence data set (Fig. 6).

## Morphospatial variation in relation to latitude

Factor loadings of the first three PCs in both the pruned meristic and pruned mensural data sets (i.e. the data sets with maximal variance) were regressed against the latitude (in decimal degrees) of each population in order to ascertain if there was evidence that overall variation in morphospace had a geographically clinal component. The factor loadings of PC 1 and PC 2 of the meristic data and $\mathrm{PC1}$ of the mensural data showed a highly significant statistical clinal correlation with latitude ( $p=0.001,2.7^{-03}$, and $9.5^{-05}$, respectively) despite the fact latitude explained only $26 \%$, $32 \%$ and $44 \%$, respectfully of the variation (Fig. 8). Factor loadings of PC3 of the meristic and PC2 and PC3 of the mensural data showed no significant correlation with latitude ( $p=0.74,0.44$, and 0.73 , respectively) although the slope of PC2 is suggestive of such.

## Snout-vent length

Using the pruned mensural data set from the geographic variation analysis, we noted that individuals from the Kay Lar Tha population were shaped differently from similarly sized individuals between 64.0 mm and 79.0 mm SVL from the other two populations (Fig. 6). This may be due to
an inferred smaller adult SVL in the Kay Lar Tha population based on the smaller size of gravid females ( 64.9 mm vs. $78.5-87.1 \mathrm{~mm}$; Fig. 9). However, we had only a single gravid individual from each population.

## Color pattern

Although Cyrtodactylus aequalis can be diagnosed from other members of the C. sinyineensis group based on aspects of coloration and pattern (Grismer et al., 2018a, 2019c), color pattern among the individuals from the three localities is highly variable (Figs. 10, 11) and no consistent interpopulational diagnostic characteristics were recovered.

## Discussion

This exercise highlights the necessity for an integrative approach to taxonomy. A prudent evaluation of the molecular evidence indicates that only one species should be recognized. Yet in the absence of these data, the combined statistical evidence from the merisitc and mensural data sets (Table 4) coupled with the seemingly allopatric distribution among the three populations (Fig. 1) could underpin a compelling argument for the specific identity of all three populations. For example, in the geographic variation analyses the Kyaiktiyo and Kou Thi Nar Youn populations are shown to have significantly different mean values of LT, FS, SNT, HL, PH, HLW, FLL, and centroid positions in the pruned data sets (Table 4, Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6-7). Yet the phylogeny indicates that the Kou Thi Nar Youn and Kyaiktiyo populations from a tricotomy with extremely low genetic divergence among the individuals of each lineage ( $0.000-$ $0.0014 \%$; Table A5). This suggests that gene flow currently exists among them, thus precluding their separate species independence despite the fact that each population comes from a different mountainous area (Fig. 1). However, some

Table 5. Summary statistics and principal component analysis scores for the total evidence mensural integrative analysis data set of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. Abbreviations are listed in the Materials and methods.

|  | PC1 | PC2 | PC3 | PC4 | PC5 | PC6 | PC7 | PC8 | PC9 | PC10 | PC11 | PC12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Standard deviation | 2.670531754 | 1.315235005 | 1.056338293 | 0.760788396 | 0.711881005 | 0.66099127 | 0.543839613 | 0.306000806 | 0.269940356 | 0.14498152 | 0.112385456 | 0.064556068 |
| Proportion of Variance | 0.59431 | 0.14415 | 0.09299 | 0.04823 | 0.04223 | 0.03641 | 0.02465 | 0.0078 | 0.00607 | 0.00175 | 0.00105 | 0.00035 |
| Cumulative Proportion | 0.59431 | 0.73847 | 0.83145 | 0.87969 | 0.92192 | 0.95833 | 0.98297 | 0.99078 | 0.99685 | 0.9986 | 0.99965 | 1 |
| Eginvalue | 7.13174 | 1.72984 | 1.11585 | 0.5788 | 0.50677 | 0.43691 | 0.29576 | 0.09364 | 0.07287 | 0.02102 | 0.01263 | 0.00417 |
| PW | -0.18227 | 0.3968 | -0.31521 | -0.69494 | 0.40644 | -0.15127 | -0.13354 | 0.05451 | 0.1136 | 0.06445 | 0.03301 | 0.00192 |
| PH | 0.0528 | 0.24889 | 0.84138 | -0.07796 | 0.2451 | 0.13675 | -0.37075 | -0.00501 | -0.05226 | 0.01757 | -0.04428 | -0.00251 |
| AXG | -0.22776 | -0.396 | -0.05632 | -0.32752 | -0.0262 | 0.81574 | -0.07218 | 0.05913 | -0.03581 | -0.06767 | -0.00306 | -0.01312 |
| HL | -0.1802 | 0.4465 | -0.35525 | 0.5329 | 0.06431 | 0.32073 | -0.48859 | -0.04292 | 0.08307 | 0.00016 | -0.04741 | -0.03548 |
| HW | -0.21791 | 0.49507 | 0.14802 | 0.104 | 0.06813 | 0.295 | 0.74818 | -0.02849 | 0.06424 | -0.12312 | 0.05361 | 0.01666 |
| HD | -0.23996 | 0.30898 | 0.08981 | -0.26112 | -0.84879 | -0.07277 | -0.15659 | 0.08312 | -0.05996 | -0.08174 | 0.03638 | -0.04394 |
| SNT | 0.34933 | 0.19258 | -0.0992 | -0.0389 | -0.06077 | 0.1917 | 0.09054 | 0.18756 | -0.53102 | 0.6696 | 0.05754 | -0.10977 |
| ED | -0.3499 | -0.13077 | 0.11371 | 0.15069 | 0.03622 | -0.09949 | 0.03363 | 0.74681 | 0.36377 | 0.34331 | -0.01935 | -0.06484 |
| HLW | -0.35914 | -0.07569 | 0.00354 | 0.1167 | 0.17902 | -0.15309 | -0.05687 | 0.2007 | -0.58903 | -0.297 | 0.56034 | -0.05926 |
| HLL | 0.36664 | 0.08791 | -0.06714 | -0.04051 | 0.03477 | 0.04821 | 0.01728 | 0.37512 | -0.03343 | -0.4629 | -0.22553 | -0.664 |
| FLW | -0.36736 | -0.04185 | -0.0095 | 0.02848 | 0.07796 | -0.13014 | 0.05047 | 0.01696 | -0.44993 | $-0.0343$ | -0.78785 | 0.11052 |
| FLL | 0.36297 | 0.12026 | -0.07738 | -0.02085 | -0.02198 | 0.09194 | -0.0327 | 0.458 | -0.06034 | -0.31501 | -0.03539 | 0.72352 |

Table 6. Summary statistics and principal component analysis scores for the total evidence meristic geographic variation data set of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. Abbreviations are listed in the Materials and methods.

|  | PC1 | PC2 | PC3 | PC4 | PC5 | PC6 | PC7 | PC8 | PC9 | PC10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Standard Deviation | 1.681377815 | 1.260629875 | 1.23611354 | 1.123481024 | 0.983850292 | 0.829634646 | 0.695999807 | 0.632865868 | 0.501294877 | 0.033288645 |
| Proportion of Variance | 0.2827 | 0.15892 | 0.1528 | 0.12622 | 0.0968 | 0.06883 | 0.04844 | 0.04005 | 0.02513 | 0.00011 |
| Cumulative Proportion | 0.2827 | 0.44162 | 0.59442 | 0.72064 | 0.81744 | 0.88627 | 0.93471 | 0.97476 | 0.99989 | 1 |
| Eigenvalue | 2.82703 | 1.58919 | 1.52798 | 1.26221 | 0.96796 | 0.68829 | 0.48442 | 0.40052 | 0.2513 | 0.00111 |
| SU | 0.08471 | 0.19285 | -0.21589 | -0.74236 | 0.2709 | -0.0701 | 0.19747 | 0.00837 | 0.49047 | -0.00076 |
| IL | 0.40465 | -0.10109 | 0.18371 | -0.41994 | 0.31194 | 0.20407 | -0.12682 | 0.04039 | -0.67763 | 0.00913 |
| PT | -0.16764 | -0.29187 | -0.45778 | 0.12911 | 0.42721 | 0.45449 | -0.49398 | 0.00236 | 0.16547 | 0.00254 |
| LT | -0.43686 | -0.10023 | -0.26981 | -0.23058 | -0.13123 | -0.06912 | 0.10883 | -0.73176 | -0.32165 | -0.01925 |
| VS | 0.42335 | 0.28572 | 0.04189 | 0.05961 | -0.03831 | -0.33528 | -0.62703 | -0.44972 | 0.15658 | 0.00305 |
| TLE | -0.05969 | 0.61766 | -0.31635 | 0.2477 | 0.34858 | -0.08996 | 0.1422 | 0.08435 | -0.2617 | -0.47758 |
| TLU | 0.36648 | -0.46174 | -0.32989 | -0.04979 | -0.31664 | -0.12758 | 0.05676 | 0.06312 | 0.0294 | -0.64543 |
| TTL | 0.33865 | -0.00868 | -0.61731 | 0.15024 | -0.06677 | -0.20636 | 0.19949 | 0.10086 | -0.17313 | 0.59549 |
| FS | 0.41405 | 0.12947 | 0.06204 | 0.21552 | -0.02866 | 0.62181 | 0.38943 | -0.43294 | 0.18638 | -0.01431 |
| PS | 0.08315 | -0.40519 | 0.20419 | 0.25749 | 0.63329 | -0.41962 | 0.28462 | -0.22774 | 0.10411 | -0.00739 |



Figure 9. (a) Histograms illustrating the range of SVLs among the three populations. (b) SVLs regressed against body shape (centroid positions) represented by the mean values of the summed factor loadings of PC1-PC3 of the total evidence mensural data set. The centroid positions clearly separate the Kay Lar Tha populations from the others. Red stars indicate gravid females.

Table 7. Summary statistics and principal component analysis scores for the pruned meristic geographic variation data set of the populations of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. Abbreviations are listed in the Materials and methods.

|  | PC1 | PC2 | PC3 | PC4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Standard deviation | 1.292536637 | 1.020671118 | 0.904875374 | 0.684675155 |
| Proportion of Variance | 0.41766 | 0.26044 | 0.2047 | 0.1172 |
| Cumulative Proportion | 0.41766 | 0.67811 | 0.8828 | 1 |
| eigen | 1.670650959 | 1.041769532 | 0.818799442 | 0.468780068 |
| PV | -0.437040744 | -0.372721654 | 0.796499917 | 0.188843424 |
| LT | -0.657985268 | 0.057296631 | -0.16031075 | -0.733534558 |
| ETL | -0.003857408 | -0.902089431 | -0.430678829 | 0.027120575 |
| FS | 0.613217658 | -0.209834038 | 0.392942861 | -0.652326367 |

would consider their paraphyletic nature irrelevant and conclude that we are witnessing is speciation in the presence of gene flow (Hu et al., 2019). The Kyaiktiyo and Kay Lar Tha populations are allopatric, however, and differ significantly in mean values of PT, ETL, SNT, ED, HD, and PW (Table 4) yet differ only by a $0.001-0.004 \%$ sequence divergence. Furthermore, the Kay Lar Tha and the Kou Thi Nar Youn populations are allopatric and differ significantly in mean values of PT, FS, SNT, ED, HD, PW, and HLW (Table 4) but again differ only by a $0.011-0.015 \%$ sequence divergence (Table A5).

Much the same is true for the integrative analysis where the reciprocally monophyletic allopatric populations of KKTNY and Kay Lar Tha populations differ significantly in mean values of PT, ETL, HD, and PW (Table 4) but differ only by a $0.001-0.007 \%$ sequence divergence (Table A5). Weak genetic differentiation and pronounced morphological divergence could have resulted from historically high levels of gene flow and we are witnessing a population on the cusp of speciation.

The total evidence versus the pruned multivariate data sets in all analyses differed greatly in their percentage of PC
Table 8. Sum

| Table 8. Summary statistics and principal component analysis scores for the total evidence mensural geographic variation data set of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. Abbreviations are listed in the Materials <br> and methods. |
| :--- |

factor loadings (6). The pruned data sets had higher loadings as a result of their reduced dimensionality resulting in significantly different centroid positions in three of the four data sets (Table 4) as compared to the total evidence data sets which had lower PC loadings and no significant differences in centroid positions. An argument could be marshaled that by pruning the variables based on information from the same data that is used in downstream analyses, we are forcing significantly different structure where it may not exist. Perhaps, but in practice all data sets are in effect pruned as dozens more meristic and mensural characters that could have been conceived were not evaluated. Had they been, it is highly likely would have obscured much of the signal in the data and reduced the accuracy of the analysis. Even in the total evidence data sets, we in effect pruned the data to focus only on characters that have been shown to be diagnostic for Cyrtodactylus (e.g., Grismer et al., 2012 and references therein)-some for well over a century (Gray, 1827).

In the total evidence data set, the PCAs for both the meristic and mensural data showed considerable overlap among all populations and there were no statistically different mean values among any pair of centroids. Yet the DAPCs for both analyses showed no overlap among the $95 \%$ confidence ellipsoids. So which set of analyses should underpin our taxonomic decisions? We argue that the uncoerced data set of a PCA bearing statistically different centroid placements is superior to a coerced DAPC where in effect, the taxonomy (i.e., groupings) is determined beforehand in the latter, often using the same data. The more agnostic approach of a PCA clusters individuals independently of one another.

PC loadings should also be taken into consideration when basing taxonomic decisions on a PCA. For example, an ANOVA of the summed factor loadings of PC1-PC3 in the total evidence meristic data set recovered no significant differences between any species pairs, indicating there were no significant differences in the centroid positions even though the Kay Lar Tha population does not overlap either of the other populations along the combined ordination of the first two components (Fig. 6). This is likely because the factor loadings accounted for only $29.2 \%, 21.8 \%$, and $15.3 \%$ of the total variation, respectively, in the data set.

## The Kay Lar Tha population

Under a strict adherence of the GLC as outlined herein, we might argue that speciation has already occurred and the Kay Lar Tha population should be described and named. It exists on the top of a mountain isolated in an agricultural flood plain, occurs only among boulders in a restrictive granite microhabitat, and bears several significantly different diagnostic characters from the KKTNY population, there is no evidence of current gene flow between them, and based on the size of gravid females, adults may be considerably smaller (Fig. 9). However, the GMYC analysis did not recover any of the sublineages of $C$. aequalis as separate, significantly different, genetic clusters beyond the null and evidence suggests the meristic and mensural variation have a strong geographic component (Fig. 8),

Table 9. Summary statistics and principal component analysis scores for the pruned mensural geographic variation data set of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. Abbreviations are listed in the Materials and methods.

|  | PC1 | PC2 | PC3 | PC4 | PC5 | PC6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Standard deviation | 1.547170035 | 1.208627314 | 0.966606177 | 0.693630816 | 0.632704035 | 0.574211888 |
| Proportion of Variance | 0.39896 | 0.24346 | 0.15572 | 0.08019 | 0.06672 | 0.05495 |
| Cumulative Proportion | 0.39896 | 0.64242 | 0.79814 | 0.87833 | 0.94505 | 1 |
| Eigenvalue | 2.393735116 | 1.460779985 | 0.934327501 | 0.4812371 | 0.400314396 | 0.329719293 |
| PH | -0.20366 | 0.4134 | -0.79371 | 0.18749 | -0.27042 | 0.22222 |
| HL | 0.52039 | -0.19982 | -0.12543 | 0.54091 | 0.41853 | 0.45364 |
| HD | 0.37427 | 0.53759 | -0.18133 | -0.29793 | 0.54497 | -0.39024 |
| SNT | 0.50911 | 0.25198 | 0.17963 | -0.45513 | -0.4226 | 0.50922 |
| HLW | 0.06532 | -0.63368 | -0.51267 | -0.55763 | 0.13602 | 0.0436 |
| FLL | 0.53308 | -0.18743 | -0.16221 | 0.25577 | -0.50756 | -0.57563 |



Figure 10. (a) Color pattern variation in a series of Cyrtodactylus aequalis from Kyaiktiyo Mountain, Mon State, Myanmar. (b) Color pattern variation in a series of C. aequalis from Kou Thi Nar Youn, Mon State, Myanmar. Numbers refer to the La Sierra University Herpetological Collection (LSUHC).


Figure 11. Comparison of living individuals of Cyrtodactylus aequalis from Mon State, Myanmar: (a) adult female LSUHC 14062 from Kyaiktiyo Mountain, (b) adult female LSUHC 14496 from Kay Lar Tha, and (c) adult male LSUHC 14501 from Kou Thi Nar Youn.
suggesting current or at least very recent gene flow, or environmental factors influencing phenotype. As such we depart from a strict adherence to the GLC and elect consider this population as C. aequalis, thus removing its con ferre designation (sec., Grismer et al., 2020).

## Conservation implications

Although we illustrate the significant role that integrative analyses should play in bringing our taxonomies in line with evolutionary history and avoiding over or underestimating biodiversity, this is not always possible. Many analyses are based on museum specimens collected long before tissue samples would have been taken and unfortunately and surprisingly, some taxonomists still do not take tissue samples from the specimens they collect. In such cases, prudent morphological analyses should be employed in order to form legitimate, testable species-designation hypotheses. Given the current biodiversity crisis-especially in the imperiled tropical regions of Indochina and Southeast Asia-this is often the only option taxonomist working with rare or poorly known species have in order to lobby for taxonomy-based implementation of legislative protection.

## Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr. Win Naing Thaw of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Forest Department for the collection and export permits. LLG thanks the College of Arts and Sciences of La Sierra University and Fauna \& Flora International for partial funding. JRO was supported by funding from the National Science Foundation of the USA (DEB 1656004). This paper is contribution number 889 of the Auburn University Museum of Natural History.

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## Appendix

Table A1. Meristic and mensural data from the Kay Lar Tha population of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. $\mathrm{R}=$ right, $\mathrm{L}=\mathrm{left}, /=$ data unobtainable or not applicable, $r=$ regenerated.

|  | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 14242 | 14243 | 14244 | 14245 |
| Sex | f | f | f | f |
| Supralabials | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Infralabials | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Body tubercles low, weakly keeled | no | no | no | no |
| Body tubercles raised, moderately to strongly keeled | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Paravertebral tubercles | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 |
| Longitudinal rows of body tubercles | 21 | 21 | 20 | 21 |
| Tubercles extend beyond base of tail | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Ventral scales | 25 | 24 | 25 | 24 |
| Expanded subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Unmodified subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 16 | 15 | 16 | 13 |
| Total subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 23 | 22 | 24 | 21 |
| Enlarged femoral scales (R/L) | 12/13 | 12/12 | 13/13 | 11/12 |
| Total femoral scales | 25 | 24 | 26 | 23 |
| Femoral pores (R/L) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total femoral pores in males | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Enlarged Precolacal scales | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Precloacal pores | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Post-precloacal scales rows | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Enlarged femoral and precloacal scales continuous | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Pore-bearing femoral and precloacal scales continuous | 1 | 1 | 1 | / |
| Enlarged proximal femoral scales $\sim 1 / 2$ size of distal femorals | no | no | no | no |
| Medial subcaudals 2 or 3 times wider than long | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Medial subcaudals extend onto lateral surface of tail | no | no | no | no |
| SVL | 71.3 | 74.0 | 69.4 | 65.0 |
| TL | 85 r | 95.0 | 80.0 | 87.0 |
| TW | 6.9 | 7.2 | 6.0 | 5.4 |
| FL | 11.1 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 9.9 |
| TBL | 13.8 | 13.1 | 12.1 | 12.3 |
| AG | 33.0 | 30.1 | 25.1 | 27.6 |
| HL | 20.7 | 20.6 | 18.9 | 18.3 |
| HW | 14.0 | 13.7 | 12.8 | 12.6 |
| HD | 7.6 | 8.5 | 7.3 | 7.7 |
| ED | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.7 | 4.4 |
| EE | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 4.9 |
| ES | 8.4 | 7.1 | 7.4 | 7.5 |
| EN | 6.3 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.2 |
| IO | 5.1 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 4.5 |
| EL | 1.3 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| IN | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 |

Table A2. Meristic and mensural data from the Kyaiktiyo population of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. $\mathrm{R}=$ right, $\mathrm{L}=$ left, $/=$ data unobtainable or not applicable, $\mathrm{r}=\mathrm{regenerated}$.

Table A2. Meristic and mensural data from the Kyaiktiyo population of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. $\mathrm{R}=$ right, $\mathrm{L}=$ left, $/=$ data unobtainable or not applicable, $\mathrm{r}=$ regenerated.

| AG | 29.5 | 25.0 | 31.8 | 39.8 | 35.1 | 35.68 | 33.51 | 40.6 | 30.11 | 36.12 | 33.83 | 18.72 | 15.58 | 16.42 | 33.08 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HL | 21.4 | 19.9 | 22.3 | 26.2 | 26.1 | 24.79 | 23.31 | 26 | 22.03 | 23.74 | 21.6 | 16.08 | 13.87 | 13.8 | 23.2 |
| HW | 13.4 | 13.5 | 15.5 | 18.6 | 17.5 | 17.2 | 14.69 | 18.6 | 14.5 | 16.13 | 13.74 | 11.82 | 8.19 | 7.79 | 16 |
| HD | 8.0 | 7.7 | 8.9 | 10.1 | 10.4 | 10.05 | 9.09 | 10.07 | 8.1 | 9.57 | 8.55 | 6.07 | 5.15 | 5.5 | 9.21 |
| ED | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.9 | 5.1 | 6.01 | 5.52 | 5.79 | 6 | 4.29 | 4.97 | 4.31 | 3.11 | 3.18 | 3.32 | 5.05 |
| EE | 5.4 | 5.8 | 6.9 | 8.3 | 7.7 | 7.29 | 6.06 | 7.1 | 6.09 | 7.09 | 6.41 | 4.1 | 3.32 | 3.32 | 7.13 |
| ES | 7.7 | 7.6 | 8.9 | 10.1 | 9.5 | 9.47 | 8.26 | 10.4 | 8.19 | 8.9 | 8.51 | 6.13 | 4.93 | 4.98 | 8.93 |
| EN | 6.1 | 5.9 | 6.9 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.43 | 6.7 | 7.6 | 6.57 | 6.8 | 6.21 | 4.6 | 3.76 | 4.01 | 7.26 |
| IO | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 6.65 | 5.91 | 6.6 | 5.64 | 6.14 | 6.11 | 4.52 | 3.76 | 3.18 | 5.85 |
| EL | 2.2 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.15 | 1.55 | 2 | 2.05 | 1.33 | 2.41 | 1.38 | 1.18 | 1.12 | 2.67 |
| IN | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 2.69 | 2.25 | 2.9 | 2.46 | 2.73 | 2.28 | 1.96 | 1.31 | 1.43 | 2.24 |


|  | CAS | CAS | CAS | CAS | CAS | CAS | CAS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 240335 | 240414j | 240505 | 240641 | 240610 | 240611 | 240408 |
| Sex | f | J | f | f | f | f | f |
| Supralabials | 9 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Infralabials | 8 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Body tubercles low, weakly keeled | no | YES | no | no | no | no | no |
| Body tubercles raised, moderately to strongly keeled | yes | no | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Paravertebral tubercles | 30 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 33 | 31 | 32 |
| Longitudinal rows of body tubercles | 19 | 19 | 20 | 19 | 21 | 18 | 21 |
| Tubercles extend beyond base of tail | / | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Ventral scales | 31 | 27 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Expanded subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Unmodified subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 13 |
| Total subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 25 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 21 |
| Enlarged femoral scales (R/L) | 15/15 | 13/13 | 13/13 | 13/12 | 12/12 | 13/12 | 13/13 |
| Total femoral scales | 30 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Femoral pores (R/L) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total femoral pores in males | 1 | 1 | / | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Enlarged Precolacal scales | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Precloacal pores | / | 1 | / | / | 1 | 1 | / |
| Post-precloacal scales rows | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Enlarged femoral and precloacal scales continuous | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Pore-bearing femoral and precloacal scales continuous | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Enlarged proximal femoral scales $\sim 1 / 2$ size of distal femorals | no | yes | no | no | no | no | no |
| Medial subcaudals 2 or 3 times wider than long | 1 | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | 1 |
| Medial subcaudals extend onto lateral surface of tail | 1 | no | no | no | no | no | 1 |
| SVL | 88.51 | 35.83 | 82.13 | 83.31 | 74.97 | 85.67 | 84.88 |
| TL | / |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FL | 12.93 | 5.86 | 13.72 | 13.59 | 11.52 | 13.6 | 13.36 |
| TBL | 17.63 | 7.15 | 15.84 | 16.99 | 16.15 | 16.97 | 15.25 |


|  | CAS | CAS | CAS | CAS | CAS | CAS | CAS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 240335 | 240414j | 240505 | 240641 | 240610 | 240611 | 240408 |
| Sex | f | J | f | f | f | f | f |
| AG | 35.68 | 14.8 | 35.37 | 31.14 | 31.37 | 35.87 | 36.67 |
| HL | 26.37 | 11.99 | 24.68 | 23.47 | 22.69 | 24.89 | 24.68 |
| HW | 18.06 | 6.71 | 15.68 | 15.75 | 14.32 | 16.58 | 16.15 |
| HD | 10.29 | 4.28 | 9.84 | 9.41 | 8.85 | 10.06 | 9.98 |
| ED | 6.47 | 3.33 | 5.74 | 6.66 | 6.02 | 5.59 | 5.5 |
| EE | 8.45 | 3.56 | 7.99 | 7.72 | 6.7 | 7.16 | 7.22 |
| ES | 10.93 | 3.75 | 10.38 | 9.99 | 8.59 | 10.06 | 10.97 |
| EN | 8.51 | 3.21 | 7.31 | 7.35 | 6.57 | 7.88 | 9.29 |
| IO | 7.87 | 3.05 | 7.46 | 7.37 | 5.13 | 6.43 | 5.57 |
| EL | 2.15 | 1.35 | 2.11 | 2 | 1.56 | 2.24 | 2.03 |
| IN | 2.6 | 1.19 | 2.54 | 2.67 | 2.26 | 2.38 | 2.5 |

Table A3. Meristic and mensural data from the Kou Thi Nar Youn population of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. $\mathrm{R}=$ right, $\mathrm{L}=\mathrm{left}, /=$ data unobtainable or not applicable, $\mathrm{r}=$ regenerated.

|  | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC | LSUHC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 14491 | 14492 | 14493 | 14494 | 14495 | 14496 | 14497 | 14498 | 14499 | 14500 | 14501 |
| Sex | M | M | F | M | M | M | F | M | F | F | M |
| Supralabials | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Infralabials | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Body tubercles low, weakly keeled | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no |
| Body tubercles raised, moderately to strongly keeled | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Paravertebral tubercles | 35 | 33 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 31 |
| Longitudinal rows of body tubercles | 19 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 18 |
| Tubercles extend beyond base of tail | 1 | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Ventral scales | 22 | 26 | 23 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 24 | 27 | 27 | 25 |
| Modified subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Unmodified subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 16 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 14 |
| Total subdigital lamellae on 4th toe | 24 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 23 |
| Enlarged femoral scales (R/L) | 13/14 | 14/15 | 13/13 | 13/13 | 14/14 | 14/14 | 12/12 | 13/14 | 13/14 | 13/14 | 13/13 |
| Total femoral scales | 27 | 29 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 24 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 26 |
| Femoral pores (R/L) | 7/8 | 7/8 | 1 | 8/8 | 6/6 | 6/6 | / | 8/7 | 1 | 1 | 7/7 |
| Total femoral pores in males | 15 | 15 | 1 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| Enlarged Precolacal scales | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| Precloacal pores | 10 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Post-precloacal scales rows | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Enlarged femoral and precloacal scales continuous | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Pore-bearing femoral and precloacal scales continuous | no | no | 1 | no | no | no | 1 | no | 1 | 1 | no |
| Enlarged proximal femoral scales $\sim 1 / 2$ size of distal femorals | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no |
| Medial subcaudals 2 or 3 times wider than long | 1 | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Medial subcaudals extend onto lateral surface of tail | 1 | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no |
| SVL | 88.8 | 86.62 | 75.79 | 75.25 | 69.43 | 68.48 | 71.03 | 67.63 | 64.32 | 78.50 | 67.97 |
| FL | 12.94 | 14.69 | 11.64 | 12.46 | 10.42 | 10.73 | 9.82 | 10.16 | 9.87 | 11.63 | 10.91 |
| TBL | 16.4 | 16.57 | 14.46 | 15.61 | 13.41 | 13.73 | 12.95 | 12.65 | 11.85 | 14.73 | 13.75 |
| AG | 37.55 | 36.39 | 34.82 | 33.44 | 31.1 | 28.35 | 34.58 | 30.22 | 28.56 | 35.32 | 29.04 |
| HL | 25.51 | 25.8 | 21.93 | 21.84 | 20.34 | 19.91 | 20.77 | 22.08 | 18.18 | 23 | 20.12 |
| HW | 16.92 | 18.06 | 14.45 | 14.69 | 13.84 | 13.29 | 13.69 | 12.9 | 12.68 | 15.02 | 12.83 |
| HD | 10.46 | 10.16 | 8.23 | 8.68 | 8.25 | 7.69 | 7.93 | 7.76 | 6.82 | 8.76 | 7.82 |
| ED | 6.11 | 6.33 | 5.66 | 5.29 | 4.81 | 4.06 | 4.49 | 5.04 | 5.02 | 4.73 | 4.36 |
| EE | 7.49 | 6.96 | 6.31 | 6.24 | 5.64 | 5.34 | 5.69 | 6.06 | 5.29 | 6.24 | 5.28 |
| ES | 10.67 | 10.2 | 8.41 | 9.32 | 8.47 | 7.64 | 8.3 | 8.14 | 7.74 | 9.27 | 7.07 |
| EN | 7.53 | 7.08 | 5.41 | 6.57 | 5.94 | 6.31 | 5.73 | 6.03 | 5.49 | 6.26 | 5.88 |
| IO | 7.68 | 6.19 | 5.9 | 4.78 | 4.98 | 4.55 | 5.83 | 5.81 | 5.14 | 6.65 | 4.45 |
| EL | 2.09 | 2.29 | 1.48 | 1.85 | 1.63 | 2.17 | 1.78 | 2.49 | 1.46 | 1.73 | 2.18 |
| IN | 2.73 | 2.65 | 2.33 | 2.44 | 1.81 | 2.15 | 2.18 | 2.18 | 1.95 | 2.82 | 1.7 |

Table A4. Summary statistics of the three allopatric populations of Cyrtodactylus aequalis. $\mathrm{SD}=$ standard deviation, $\mathrm{n}=$ sample size, and * and \# denote significant statistical differences between specified means.

|  | Kyaiktiyo | Kay Lar Tha | Kou Thi Nar Youn |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| supralabial scales (SL) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | $8.2( \pm 0.50)$ | $8.0( \pm 0.00)$ | 8.0 ( $\pm 0.45)$ |
| range | 7-9 | 8 | 7-9 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| infralabial scales (IL) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | $6.5( \pm 0.60)$ | 6.75 ( $\pm 0.50)$ | $6.9( \pm 0.30)$ |
| range | 6-8 | 6 or 7 | 6 or 7 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| paravertebral tubercles (PT) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | *32.6 ( $\pm 1.37)$ | *\#29.0 ( $\pm 0.00)$ | \#32.0 ( $\pm 01.18$ ) |
| range | 30-35 | 29 | 31-35 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| longitudunal rows of body tubercles (LT) |  |  |  |
| Mean ( $\pm$ SD) | *21.1( $\pm 1.42$ ) | $20.8( \pm 0.50)$ | *19.4 ( $\pm 0.81$ ) |
| Range | 18-23 | 20 or 21 | 18-20 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| ventral scales (VS) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | $24.4( \pm 1.84)$ | $24.5( \pm 0.58)$ | $24.8( \pm 1.67)$ |
| range | 22-31 | 24 or 25 | 22-27 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| expanded 4th toe lamellae (ETL) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | *8.8 ( $\pm 0.73$ ) | *7.5 ( $\pm 0.58$ ) | $8.4( \pm 0.50)$ |
| range | 7-10 | 7 or 8 | 8 or 9 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| unmodified 4th toe lamellae (UTL) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | $14.2( \pm 0.97)$ | 15. $0( \pm 1.41)$ | 14.5( $\pm 0.93)$ |
| range | 13-17 | 13-16 | 13-16 |
| total 4th toe lamellae (TTL) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | $23.0( \pm 0.90)$ | $22.5( \pm 1.29)$ | $22.9( \pm 0.94)$ |
| range | 21-25 | 21-24 | 21-24 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| enlarged femoral scales (FS) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | *24.9 ( $\pm 1.81)$ | \#24.5 ( $\pm 1.29$ ) | *\#26.8 ( $\pm 1.33$ ) |
| range | 22-30 | 23-26 | 24-29 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| femoral pores (FP) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | $14.4( \pm 2.94)$ | 1 | 14.1( $\pm 01.57)$ |
| range | 10-19 | 1 | 12-16 |
| n | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| enlarged precloacal scales (PS) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | $9.0( \pm 0.84)$ | $8.8( \pm 0.50)$ | $9.4( \pm 0.67)$ |
| range | 7-10 | 8 or 9 | 8-10 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| precloacal pores (PP) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | $7.4( \pm 2.07)$ | 1 | $9.0( \pm 01.15)$ |
| range | 5-10 | 1 | 7-10 |
| n | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| post-precloacal scale rows (PPS) |  |  |  |
| mean ( $\pm$ SD) | 3.0 ( $\pm 0.00)$ | 3.0 ( $\pm 0.00)$ | 3.0 ( $\pm 0.00)$ |
| range | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |
| maximum SVL (mm) | 99.0 | 74.0 | 88.8 |
| n | 22 | 4 | 11 |

Table A5. Uncorrected pairwise sequence divergences between the mitochondrial ND2 lineages of the Cyrtodactylus aequalis


|  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 33. LSUHC 14492 Kou Thi Nar | 0.003 | 0.002 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 34. LSUHC 14493 Kou Thi Nar | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.001 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 35. LSUHC 14494 Kou Thi Nar | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.001 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 36. LSUHC 14495 Kou Thi Nar | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.000 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 37. LSUHC 14496 Kou Thi Nar | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 38. LSUHC 14497 Kou Thi Nar | 0.006 | 0.005 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 39. LSUHC 14498 Kou Thi Nar | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.003 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 40. LSUHC 14499 Kou Thi Nar | 0.008 | 0.004 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youn |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


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