New earthworm species of the genus *Amynthas* Kinberg, 1867 from Thailand
(Clitellata, Oligochaeta, Megascolecidae)

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Abstract

Four new species of terrestrial earthworms from the *zebrus*-group in the genus *Amynthas* Kinberg, 1867, are described from Nan province, north Thailand: *A. phatubensis* sp. n., from Tham Pha Tub Arboretum, *A. tontong* sp. n., from Tontong Waterfall, *A. borealis* sp. n., from Chaloemprakiat district, and *A. srinan* sp. n., from Srinan National Park. After comparing with the two closely related Laos species *A. chandyi* Hong, 2008 and *A. namphouinensis* Hong, 2008, the four new species show clear morphological differences, and also it is confirmed that there are no previous records of the species described here. *Amynthas phatubensis* sp. n. is the largest (longest) sized of these earthworms and is the only species that lives in limestone habitats. The genital characters are different among them and also from the two Laotian species. Molecular systematics would be a good method for further analysis of the diversity and species boundaries in SE Asian *Amynthas*. 

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Keywords
Amynthas, Earthworm, Taxonomy, New species, Thailand

Introduction

Previous taxonomic publications on, or including, the Megascolecidae (*sensu* Blakemore 2000) of Thailand are comprised of those of Gates (1972), Sims and Easton (1972) and Blakemore (2006b, 2008, 2011) and Blakemore et al. (2007). Collectively, in these publications, 32 species are recorded for Thailand, belonging to five genera (*Amynthas* Kinberg, 1867, *Lampito* Kinberg, 1867, *Metaphire* Sims & Easton, 1972, *Polypheretima* Michaelsen, 1934 and *Perionyx* Perrier, 1872). The genus *Amynthas* is one of the dominant terrestrial earthworm genera that occurs throughout Thailand and nearby countries. From the classifications by Sims and Easton (1972) and reports by Blakemore (2006b, 2011) and Somniyam (2008), it would seem that 14 species from this genus have been recorded from many areas in Thailand (Table 1). However, in addition Kosavititkul (2005) has reported six species of *Amynthas* from Khao Yai National Park, which included three unknown species, Chantaravisoot (2007) reported five species of *Amynthas* from various areas in Thailand that were all commented to be new to science, and Somniyam (2008) recorded seven *Amynthas* species from Nakhonratchasima province of which many are still unidentified. Outside of Thailand, recent publications have included that by James (2004) who described a new species (*A. heaneyi*) from the Philippines; Shen and Yeo (2005) who reported four *Amynthas* species in Singapore, and Hong (2008) who described two species (*A. chandyi* and *A. namphouinensis*) from Laos, and also reported some publications by Vietnamese who studied the earthworm fauna in Laos and described *A. xuongmontis*. From the above data it is clear that there are still many species waiting to be discovered and described. The Animal Systematics Research Unit, Chulalongkorn University’s members have surveyed terrestrial earthworms throughout Thailand since 2005 and a part of their results has been summarized in Chantaravisoot (2007). In the present paper we describe an additional four new species belonging to the *zebrus*-group, a provisional assemblage designated by Sims and Easton (1972). Each of these new species is known only from its type locality, but as more intensive collecting is undertaken in Thailand and other Asian countries, the known range and habitats of these species may be extended. The habitats of all four new species were in the topsoil layer covered with leaf litter of deciduous forests. The localities were in Nan province, in the north of Thailand, as shown in Figure 1.

Since none of the four species described in this paper seems to fit the descriptions of species described in the past, the purpose of this paper is to formally describe these species as new to science. Their descriptions follow.
**Table 1.** Morphological characteristics comparison of *Amynthas* species recorded in Thailand. The morphological characters are from the original description of each nominal species, except for the character with (*) are from Gates (1972). (**) indicate the known localities of *Amynthas* species in Thailand taken from Gates (1972), Kosavititkul (2005) and Somniyam (2008). Species group are as per Sims and Easton (1972)

| Species                          | Species group | Body length (mm) | Number of segments | Spermathecal pores | Genital markings | Genital marking glands | Seminal vesicles | Prostate glands | Intestinal caeca | Distribution** |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| *A. hupbonensis* (Stephenson, 1931) | aeruginosus   | 225              | 142                | 7/8–8/9            | absent           | absent                 | large in XI, XII | XVI–XX         | manicate, XXVII–XX | Chonburi        |
| *A. alexandri* (Beddard, 1900)   | corticis      | 145              | 133                | 5/6–8/9            | absent           | absent                 | XI, XII          | XVII–XX        | simple, XXVII–XX | Chiengrai, Chiengmai, Nakornratchasima, Bangkok, Chonburi |
| *A. comptus* (Gates, 1932)       | corticis      | 197–260*         | 120–134*           | 5/6–8/9            | three trios on 18/19–20/21 | sessile              | larger in XI, XII | XVIII           | simple, XXVII–XXIII | Phrae           |
| *A. exiguus austrinus* (Gates, 1932) | corticis      | 33–68            | 73–102             | 5/6–8/9            | two pairs on 17/18,18/19 | absent              | small in XI, XII | XVII–XX        | simple, XXVII–XXIV | Chiengmai        |
| *A. exiguus exiguus* (Gates, 1930) | corticis      | 43               | 90                 | 5/6–8/9            | paired on vii, viii, xix, xx | absent              | small in XI, XII | XVII–XIX       | simple, XXVII–XXIV | Phrae           |
| *A. longicauliculatus* (Gates, 1931) | corticis      | 170              | 138                | 5/6–8/9            | three pairs on 18/19–20/21 | sessile              | XI, XII           | XVIII           | simple, xxvii-xxiv | Chiengmai, Lumphun, Nakornratchasima |
| *A. manicata decorosa* (Gates, 1932) | corticis      | 40               | 60                 | 5/6–8/9            | one pair on xviii | sessile               | large in XI, XII | XVII–XIX       | manicate, XXVII–XXII | Chiengmai        |
| *A. mekongianus* (Cognetti, 1922) | corticis      | 1 meter          | 370                | 5/6–8/9            | absent           | absent                 | 10/11–11/12     | XVII–XVIII     | simple, XXVII–XXIII | Chiengrai        |
| Species group | Body length (mm) | Number of segments | Spermathecal pores | Genital markings | Genital marking glands | Seminal vesicles | Prostate glands | Intestinal caeca | Distribution** |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A. defecta (Gates, 1930) | >78 | >49 | 5/6–7/8 | absent | absent | small in XI, XII | absent | | manicate, XXVII–XXVI | Nakornratchasima |
| A. gracilis (Rosa, 1891) | 100 | 88–95 | 5/6–7/8 | clusters on xvi | stalked* | XI, XII* | XVII–XXIII | simple, XXVII–XXIV* | Dor Kiu Koh Ma, north Thailand |
| A. papulosus (Rosa, 1896) | 45–50 | 110–115 | 5/6–7/8 | transverse row on XVII–XIX | stalked* | XI, XII | XVI–XXI | simple, XXVII–XXII* | Yala |
| A. morrisi (Beddard, 1892) | 52 | 93 | 5/6–6/7 | near spermathecal pore | stalked | XI, XII* | XVII–XXIII* | simple, XXVII–XXIV* | Chiangmai |
| A. fucosus (Gates, 1933) | 120 | 114 | 6/7–8/9 | two pairs on 17/18, 18/19 | sessile | large in XI, XII | XVII–XX | simple, XXVII–XVII | Nakornratchasima |
| Amynthas siam, Blakemore, 2011 | >70 | >73 | 6/7–8/9 | one pair postsetal on XVIII | sessile | XI, XII | XVIII–XX | simple, XXVII– | Sakon Nakhon |
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Material and methods

Earthworms were collected from deciduous forests in many areas in Nan province, north of Thailand, by carefully digging up the topsoil near casts and by hand sorting the leaf litter. The worms were killed in 30% (v/v) ethanol, photographed, transferred to 5% (w/v) formalin for fixation for approximately 12 hours, and then transferred to 70% (v/v) ethanol for longer term preservation and subsequent morphological studies.

Duplicate specimens and/or tissue samples (in the cases of morphotypes determined to be unique on field inspection) were preserved in 95% ethanol for molecular data and DNA barcoding. Tissues were sent to the Canadian Center for DNA Barcoding (Hebert et al. 2003a, b) and processed according to their standard protocols (Hajibabaei et al. 2005; Ivanova et al. 2006; Ratnasingham and Hebert 2007). DNA barcode data are provided for paratype specimens of the first two species described in this paper. The sequences were aligned with Clustal X using default settings, and the resulting Neighbor-Joining tree (Saitou and Nei 1987) was used to identify barcode clusters. These clusters were matched to OTUs identified from quick examination of external characters. Inter- and intra-cluster genetic distances were calculated in MEGA.
4 (Tamura et al. 2007) using the Kimura two parameter distance (Kimura 1980) using gamma-distributed rates among sites, pairwise deletion of sites with missing data, and using all substitution types and codon positions.

The descriptions of each species were made during observation under a Stemi DV 4 ZEISS stereoscopic light microscope. Drawings were made of the body segments and the distinct external characters and internal organs, as mentioned above, and are shown in Figures 2–5 for the four new species, respectively. The number of segments and the body width and length were measured in both full adults and juveniles, and are presented as the range (min-max) and mean±one standard deviation.

Type specimens housed at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, National University of Laos, Vientiane, Laos (BDNUL), of the two closely related Laos species, *A. chandyi* Hong, 2008 and *A. namphouinensis* Hong, 2008, have been critically studied and compared with the new species of this report.

Holotype and paratype specimens have been deposited in the Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology, Bangkok, Thailand (CUMZ). Additional paratypes are housed in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH), and the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

Anatomical abbreviations: fp, female pore; ic, intestinal caeca; mp, male pores; pg, prostate gland; sc, spermathecae; sp, spermathecal pores; sv, seminal vesicles.

Systematics

**Genus Amynthas** Kinberg, 1867

**Type species.** *Amynthas aeruginosus* Kinberg, 1867, by monotypy.

*Amynthas phatubensis* Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:299379EB-C7CE-4B89-8A40-40E3122DCAB9
http://species-id.net/wiki/Amynthas_phatubensis
Figs 1, 2

**Description of holotype:** Dimensions; 110 mm by 4.3 mm at segment X, 4.3 at segment XX, 4.0 mm at clitellum; body cylindrical with 108 segments. Setae regularly distributed around segmental equators, numbering 51 at VII, 60 at XX, 15 between mp, setae formula AA:AB:ZZ:ZY= 1:1:1:1 at XIII with no ventral gaps. Single fp at XIV. Prostomium epilobic with tongue open. First dorsal pore at 5/6. Clitellum annular XIV–XVI with no setae.

A pair of mp is located ventro-laterally in XVIII, or at 9th seta line, 0.33 circumference apart ventrally, convex structure; distance between mp 4.2 mm. Porophores (protuberances bearing male aperture), papilla-like structures. Each mp surrounded by six flat, circular
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Genital markings almost the same diameter as mp, also one pair is equatorial in XVII in line with the male pores. One pair of sp in intersegmental furrow 7/8, distance between pores 0.32 circumference ventrally apart; distance between sp 3.5 mm. Genital markings, rounded, flat, located close to sp, postsetal paired on VII very near 7/8, presetal paired on VIII.

Septa 5/6 and 6/7 thick, 7/8 thin, 8/9 and 9/10 absent, 10/11–13/14 thin. Gizzard large within VIII–X, intestinal origin in XV, no lymph glands observed. Typhlosole small from XXVII. Intestinal caeca originate from XXVII extending forward to XXIII, simple, long finger-shape. Hearts esophageal in X–XIII. Holandric; testes and funnels in ventrally joined sacs in X–XI. Seminal vesicles paired in XI–XII. Prostates in XVII–XX; prostatic ducts U-shape. Genital marking glands absent.

Ovaries in XIII. Sc one pair in VIII; ampulla large ovate sac, duct stout, short; long stalked diverticulum, convoluted kinks enclosed within membrane, spherical knob terminal. No nephridia on spermathecal ducts. A large sessile genital marking gland corresponding to each external genital marking in VII–VIII.

**Figure 2.** External and internal morphology of holotype (CUMZ 3204) of *Amynthas phatubensis* sp. n. **A** External ventral view, **B** internal dorsal view and **C** spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.
All the key morphological characters of the holotype and paratype specimens are given in Table 2.

**Variation:** The holotype measures 110 mm body length with 108 segments; the twenty one paratypes range in size from 80–148 mm (108±21.93 mm) body length with 85–114 segments (Table 2).

**Type locality:** Tham Pha Tub Arboretum, Nan province, Thailand, 18°51’16.4”N, 100°44’10.1”E, 265 meters elevation (11th October 2009). We also collected another lot of further specimens from Tontong Waterfall, Nan province (location 3 in Figure 1), which is located about a hundred kilometers north of the type locality.

**Etymology:** This species was named after the type locality, Tham Pha Tub Arboretum.

**Type material:** The holotype (CUMZ 3204) and 15 paratypes (CUMZ 3205) and 10 paratypes (CUMZ 3212) are deposited in Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology. Another four paratypes will be deposited in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH), and three paratypes in the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

**Habitat:** Found in the top soil at about 10 cm depth, the soil surface was covered with leaf litter in a deciduous limestone forest at Tham Pha Tub Arboretum. The soil was carefully dug close to the casts. Many ariophantid snails, Cryptozona siamensis Pfeiffer, 1856 were on the ground or under leaf litter.

**Diagnosis:** Amynthas phatubensis sp. n. is a medium to large sized terrestrial earthworm with a pair of mp surrounded by six genital papillae on segment XVIII. Within the zebrus-group, this species is diagnosed by the unique combination of dorsal pores in 5/6, simple digitate caeca, ventrally joined testis sacs, genital marking glands in the spermathecal segments, and the spermathecal characters of the large ovate ampulla, stalked diverticulum whose folds are membrane-bound, and spherical knob terminal diverticulum sac.

**Remarks:** Amynthas phatubensis sp. n. has very simple characteristics of the genus, but among these, only the superficial male pores are external. In most newly collected specimens it was difficult to observe the pores or marks on the bodies. However, after preservation they can be seen more clearly. The internal organs are much more easily discerned. This new species is quite distinct when compared to the two closely related species from Laos, A. chandyi Hong, 2008 and A. namphouinensis Hong, 2008, which belong in the same zebrus-group. The two Laos species are a little bit smaller than A. phatubensis sp. n., especially A. chandyi. Even though A. namphouinensis is much closer in appearance to A. phatubensis sp. n., there are distinct differences between the type specimens (Figs 6 and 7). For example, the distance between the mp of A. phatubensis sp. n. is 4.2 mm for the holotype and range from 3.0–4.5 mm (4.27±0.57mm), while for A. namphouinensis this was significantly smaller, ranging from 1.4–1.5 mm. The distance between a pair of sp is also different, being 3.5–4.5 mm (4.12±0.4 mm) for A. phatubensis sp. n. and 1.4–2.0 mm in A. namphouinensis. The distance between the male pores as a fraction of the estimated circumference of the 18th segment is 0.30–0.33 in A. phatubensis sp. n., but 0.10–0.14 circumference apart in A. namphouinensis.
Table 2. Holotype and Paratype dimension and other morphological characteristics of *Amynthas phatubensis* Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.

| Characters | Body length (mm) | Number of segments | Location of genital markings | First dorsal pore | Number of setae | Prostate glands | Intestinal caeca |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Types      |                  |                    | Preclitellum                 | Postclitellum     | VII            | XX             |                 |
|            |                  |                    |                              |                   |    | Between male pore |             |
| Holotype CUMZ 3204 | 110  | 108  | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI III | 5/6  | 51  | 60  | 15  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
| Paratype CUMZ 3205 | 90   | 96   | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI III | 5/6  | 60  | 58  | 15  | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 105  | 107  | VII, VIII, IX, XVII, XVI VIII, XIX | 5/6  | 52  | 58  | 12  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 100  | 105  | VII, VIII, IX, XVIII | 5/6  | 53  | 60  | 9   | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 80   | 86   | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII, XIX | 5/6  | 53  | 65  | 13  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 120  | 96   | VII, VIII, XVIII | 5/6  | 58  | 68  | 11  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 101  | 85   | VII, VIII, XVIII | 5/6  | 51  | 59  | 9   | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 131  | 86   | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 64  | 67  | 15  | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXII |
|            | 108  | 98   | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 58  | 62  | 15  | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXII |
|            | 116  | 99   | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 53  | 64  | 11  | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXII |
|            | 89   | 92   | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 64  | 58  | 12  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 99   | 106  | VII, VIII, IX, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 60  | 63  | 13  | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 112  | 112  | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 52  | 58  | 11  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
|            | 142  | 110  | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 49  | 58  | 7   | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 137  | 108  | VII, VIII, IX, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 62  | 65  | 11  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
|            | 80   | 85   | VII, VIII, IX, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 54  | 60  | 13  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 89   | 111  | VII, VIII, IX, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 57  | 59  | 14  | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIII |
|            | 84   | 105  | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 52  | 59  | 11  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 148  | 112  | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 51  | 58  | 12  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
|            | 109  | 114  | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 64  | 59  | 12  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
|            | 144  | 107  | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 53  | 60  | 11  | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIV |
|            | 84   | 108  | VII, VIII, XVII, XVI VIII | 5/6  | 64  | 61  | 15  | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXII |
Moreover, *A. phatubensis* sp. n. has no genital marking glands on segments XVII–XIX, where *A. namphouinensis* has sessile genital marking glands, but contains two distinct genital marking glands located close to sc that are absent in *A. namphouinensis*.

Two populations of *A. phatubensis* sp. n. were sampled, one from the type locality and one from Tontong waterfall. Distinct DNA barcode clusters corresponding to these populations had intra-cluster Kimura 2 parameter distances of 0.023 (N=9) and 0.016 (N=5) respectively. The inter-cluster divergence between the two populations is 0.084. Based on the morphological unity and the fact that the divergence is less than that usually seen between congeneric species pairs of earthworms (Chang et al. 2007; Pérez-Losada et al. 2005, James et al. 2010), we choose to maintain the two populations as representing one species. By contrast, the inter-cluster divergence between these populations and three other morpho-species with the same spermathecal battery, from the same two sites is in the range of 0.269-0.294. A consensus sequence from the type locality specimens is in Appendix 1. Another use of COI barcode sequence from type material is in Blakemore et al. (2010).

**Amynthas tontong** Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3317146B-143D-4EFC-A0C9-60262073BAFF
http://species-id.net/wiki/Amynthas_tontong
Figs 1, 3

**Description of Holotype:** Dimensions; 53 mm by 2.7 mm at segment X, 2.6 at segment XX, 2.2 mm at clitellum; body cylindrical with 80 segments. Setae regularly distributed around segmental equators, numbering 42 at VII, 52 at XX, no visible setae between mp, setae formula AA:AB:ZZ:ZY= 1.5:1:1:1 at XIII. Single fp at XIV. Pros- tomium epilobic. First dorsal pore at 5/6. Clitellum annular XIV–XVI with no setae. A pair of indistinct rounded mp in XVIII, 0.19 mm circumference apart ventrally; distance between mp 1.0 mm at 5th seta line. Genital markings closely paired located medial to male pore level in intersegment 18/19. Sp paired in 7/8 at 4th seta line, each small, lip-like structure within porophore, 0.10 circumference apart ventrally; distance between sp 1.0 mm. Genital markings near sp absent.

Septa 5/6 and 6/7 thick, 7/8 thin, 8/9 and 9/10 absent 10/11–13/14 thin. Gizzard large within VIII–X, intestinal origin in XV, no lymph glands observed. Typhlosole small from XXVII. Ic originated from XXVII extending forward to XXV, simple finger-shape. Hearts esophageal in X–XIII. Holandric; testes and funnels in ventrally joined sacs in X–XI. Sv paired in XI–XII. Prostates in XVIII; prostatic ducts long slender with U-shape. Genital marking glands absent.

Ovaries in XIII. Sc one pair in VIII; ampulla thumb shape, duct stout, shorter than ampulla. Diverticulum slender stalk with spherical knob terminal, no genital marking glands observed.

All the key morphological characters of the holotype and paratype specimens are given in Table 3.
**Variation:** The holotype measures 53 mm body length with 80 segments; the three paratypes range in size from 39–41 mm (40.33±1.15 mm) body length with 71–74 segments (Table 3).

**Type locality:** Tontong Waterfall, Nan province, Thailand, 19°12'35.9"N, 101°04'13.7"E, 1,128 meters elevation (10th October 2009).

**Etymology:** This species was named after the type locality, Tontong Waterfall.

**Type material:** The holotype (CUMZ 3206) and two paratypes (CUMZ 3207) are deposited in Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology. Another paratype will be deposited in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH).

**Habitat:** Found in the top soil at about 10 cm depth, the soil surface covered with leaf litter of deciduous forest which originated at the Tontong Waterfall area. The soil was carefully dug close to surface casts. Most surrounding areas have been modified to agricultural fields.

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**Figure 3.** External and internal morphology of holotype (CUMZ 3206) of *Amynthas tontong* sp. n.  
A External ventral view, B internal dorsal view and C spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.
Table 3. Holotype and Paratype dimension and other morphological characteristics of *Amynthas tontong* Panha & Bantaowong sp. n.

| Characters | Types | Body length (mm) | Number of segments | Genital markings | First dorsal pore | Number of setae | Between male pore | Prostate glands | Intestinal caeca |
|------------|-------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Holotype CUMZ 3206 | | 53 | 80 | XVIII | 5/6 | 42 | 52 | 0 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| Paratype CUMZ 3207 | 1 | 41 | 71 | XVIII | 5/6 | 41 | 53 | 0 | XVI–XVIII | XXVII–XXV |
| 2 | 39 | 74 | XVIII | 5/6 | 42 | 52 | 0 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 3 | 41 | 73 | XVIII | 5/6 | 46 | 55 | 0 | XVII–XIX | XXVII–XXIII |

**Diagnosis:** *Amynthas tontong* sp. n. is a small sized terrestrial earthworm with a close indistinct pair of male pores with a pair of genital markings in intersegment 18/19. Spermathecae consists of a thumb shaped ampulla and a spherical terminal knob shaped diverticulum. Genital marking glands absent, first dorsal pore in 5/6, intestinal caeca simple, intestinal origin XV, septa 8/9/10 absent, testis sacs joined ventrally.

**Remarks:** *Amynthas tontong* sp. n., along with *A. srinan* sp. n. and *A. exiguus exiguus*, is one of the smallest sized *Amynthas* ever recorded in Thailand. The basic external characters are easily seen in both newly collected and preserved materials. Compared with the two other closely related species from Laos, *A. chandyi* Hong, 2008 and *A. namphouinensis* Hong, 2008, which belong in the same *zebrus*-group, *A. chandyi* is similar to *A. tontong* sp. n. However, it differs in the specific details of the significant characters, such as the distance between the mp in *A. tontong* sp. n. is 1.0 mm for the holotype and ranged from 1.0–1.2 mm (0.93±0.12 mm), while in *A. chandyi* it ranged from 1.5–2.4 mm. The distance between the male pores as a fraction of the estimated circumference of the 18th segment is 0.15–0.19 in *A. tontong* sp. n., but 0.14–0.32 in *A. chandyi*. The arrangement of the genital markings of both species are totally different, and the distance between a pair of sp is also different, being 0.8–1.0 mm (1.1±0.1 mm) in *A. tontong* sp. n. and 1.2–1.5 mm for *A. chandyi*. Moreover, *A. tontong* sp. n. has no genital markings near to the sp, whilst *A. chandyi* exhibits circular genital markings in various locations, paired or single mid ventral in VII, VIII; usually 3 or 4 in total.

Alcohol-preserved paratype specimens of *A. tontong* sp. n. belonged to a single DNA barcode cluster, with an intra-cluster divergence of 0.005 (N=3), and diverging from *A. phatubensis* sp. n. by 0.294, and by 0.189 for an undescribed species. An undescribed morph at Tham Pha Tub diverged by 0.100, and may represent a subspecies. A consensus sequence is in Appendix 1.
**Amynthas borealis** Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C2BE17F8-A721-4736-9809-EF9ABDAB0C03
http://species-id.net/wiki/Amynthas_borealis
Figs 1, 4

**Description of Holotype:** Dimensions; 54 mm by 3.5 mm at segment X, 3.8 at segment XX, 3.5 mm at clitellum; body cylindrical with 89 segments. Setae regularly distributed around segmental equators, numbering 39 at VII, 51 at XX, no visible setae between mp, setae formula AA:AB:ZZ:ZY = 2:1:1.5:1 at XIII. Single fp at XIV. Pros- stomium epilobic. First dorsal pore at 5/6. Clitellum annular XIV–XVI with no setae.

Mp pocket-like structures indistinctly occur in XVIII, 0.10 circumference apart ventrally; distance between mp 1.0 mm; porophores small, lip-like and surrounded by an elevated skin fold at medial pores, and there is a long ridge with a sharp posterior boundary traversing the body in front of the mp. Genital markings absent. Sp paired in 7/8 at 4th seta line, 0.10 circumference apart ventral; distance between sp 1.0 mm. Genital markings absent.

Septa 5/6 and 6/7 thick, 7/8 thin, 8/9 and 9/10 absent, 10/11–13/14 thin. Gizzard large within VIII–X, intestinal origin in XV, no lymph glands observed. Typhlosole small from XXVII. Ic originated from XXVII extending forward to XXV, simple finger-shape. Hearts esophageal in X–XIII. Holandric; testes and funnels in ventrally joined sacs in X–XI. Sv paired in XI–XII. Prostates in XVIII; prostatic ducts long slender bent in U-shape. Genital marking glands absent.

Ovaries at XIII. Sc one pair in VIII; ampulla large sac-shape, flattened by gizzard, narrow duct shorter than ampulla. Diverticulum with elongated tubular shape, stalk attached to duct near body wall, with no genital marking glands.

All the key morphological characters of the holotype and paratype specimens are given in Table 4.

**Variation:** The holotype measures 54 mm body length with 89 segments; the eight paratypes range in size from 42–45 mm (42.87±1.25 mm) body length with 77–87 segments (Table 4).

**Type locality:** Chaloemprakiat district, Nan province, Thailand, 19°34'48.5"N, 101°04'53.1"E, 513 meters elevation (7th August 2010).

**Etymology:** The specific epithet “borealis” derived from Latin word “boreal” mean “north”. This name refers to the location of type locality in the north of Thailand.

**Type material:** The holotype (CUMZ 3208) and seven paratypes (CUMZ 3209) are deposited in Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology. Another two paratypes will be deposited in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH), and another two paratypes in the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

**Habitat:** Found in the top soil at about 10 cm depth, the soil surface covered with the leaf litter of a deciduous limestone forest, mostly disturbed. The soil was carefully dug close to the casts.

**Diagnosis:** *Amynthas borealis* sp. n. is a small sized terrestrial earthworm small male pores, a transverse ridge anterior to the male pores in XVII, and no genital mark-
ings. One pair of sc in VIII, each spermathecae consists of a large sac-shaped ampulla and elongated tubular shaped diverticulum. Testis sacs joined ventrally, intestinal origin XV, intestinal caeca simple, first dorsal pore in 5/6.

**Remarks:** *Amynthas borealis* sp. n. is one of the smaller *Amynthas*. The characteristic male field is difficult to see in newly collected specimens but can be clearly observed after preservation. Compared with the two other closely related species from Laos, *A. chandyi* and *A. namphouinensis*, which belong in the same zebrus-group, *A. chandyi* is similar to *A. borealis* sp. n. However, distinctive differences include the distance between mp of the new species, being 1.0 mm in the holotype with a range of 0.8–1.0 mm (0.95±0.09 mm) in *A. borealis* sp. n. compared to 1.5–2.4 mm. The distance between the male pores as a fraction of the estimated circumference of the 18th segment is 0.10–0.14 in *A. borealis* sp. n., but 0.14–0.32 in *A. chandyi*. There are no genital markings in the new species; the distance between a pair of sp is also different, being 0.5–1.0 mm (0.9±0.19 mm) in the new species compared to 1.2–1.5 mm for *A. chan-
New earthworm species of the genus Amynthas Kinberg, 1867 from Thailand...

Moreover, *A. borealis* sp. n. has no genital marking glands at all, whilst *A. chandyi* exhibits circular genital markings in various locations, paired or single mid ventral in VII and VIII; usually 3 or 4 in total.

**Amynthas srikan Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.**
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C3EC91E6-B29A-4C72-908F-1858DE7F21DA
http://species-id.net/wiki/Amynthas_srikan

**Table 4.** Holotype and Paratype dimension and other morphological characteristics of *Amynthas borealis* Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.

| Characters | Body length (mm) | Number of segments | Genital markings | First dorsal pore | Number of setae VII | Number of setae XX | Between male pore | Prostate glands | Intestinal caeca |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Holotype CUMZ 3208 | 54 | 89 | Absent | 5/6 | 39 | 51 | 0 | XVII–XIX | XXVII–XXV |
| Paratype CUMZ 3209 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 45 | 87 | Absent | 5/6 | 51 | 48 | 0 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 2 | 42 | 78 | Absent | 5/6 | 49 | 45 | 0 | XVIII–XIX | XXVII–XXIII |
| 3 | 44 | 79 | Absent | 5/6 | 51 | 50 | 0 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
| 4 | 42 | 86 | Absent | 5/6 | 54 | 41 | 0 | XVIII–XIX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 5 | 44 | 85 | Absent | 5/6 | 40 | 40 | 0 | XVIII–XIX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 6 | 42 | 85 | Absent | 5/6 | 46 | 48 | 0 | XVII–XIX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 7 | 42 | 77 | Absent | 5/6 | 44 | 50 | 0 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXV |
| 8 | 42 | 83 | Absent | 5/6 | 48 | 52 | 0 | XVII–XIX | XXVII–XXV |

**Description of Holotype:** Dimensions; 47 mm by 1.8 mm at segment X, 2.3 at segment XX, 2.3 mm at clitellum; body cylindrical with 77 segments. Setae regularly distributed around segmental equators, numbering 36 at VII, 42 at XX, four between mp, setae formula AA:AB:ZZ:ZY= 1.5:1:2:1 at XIII. Single fp at XIV. Prostomium epilobic with tongue open. First dorsal pore at 4/5 or 5/6. Clitellum annular XIV–XVI with no setae.

Mp on circular porophores in XVIII, 0.30 circumference apart ventrally; distance between mp 1.5 mm. Genital markings small, postsetal, closely paired near mid ventral
of XVII and XVIII. Sp paired in 7/8 at 6th setal lines, 0.26 circumference apart ventrally; distance between sp 1.5 mm. Genital markings tiny, closely paired on near mid ventral of VII and VIII.

Septa 5/6 and 6/7 thick, 7/8 thin, 8/9 and 9/10 absent, 10/11–13/14 thin. Gizzard globular within VIII–X, intestinal origin in XV, no lymph glands observed. Typhlosole small from XXVII. Ic originated from XXVII extending forward to XXIII, long finger-shape. Hearts esophageal in X–XIII. Holandric; testes and funnels in ventrally joined sacs in X–XI. Sv paired in XI–XII. Prostates in XVII, extending between XVII–XX; prostatic ducts tightly folded twice. Genital marking glands paired in XVII and XVIII corresponding to external genital papillae, each consisting of a stalk with terminal multi-lobed glandular part.

Ovaries in XIII. Sc one pair in VIII; ampulla oval to kidney-shaped, with stout duct shorter than ampulla. Diverticulum with oval bulb terminal, stalk attached to duct near body wall. Genital markings stalked, corresponding to external genital papillae; each gland small consisting of a stalk with terminal multi-lobed glandular part.

Figure 5. External and internal morphology of holotype (CUMZ 3210) of *Amynthas srinan* sp. n. A External ventral view, B internal dorsal view and C spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.
Table 5. Holotype and Paratype dimension and other morphological characteristics of *Amynthas srinan* Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.

| Characters | Body length (mm) | Number of segments | Location of genital markings | First dorsal pore | Number of setae | Between male pore | Prostate glands | Intestinal caeca |
|------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Types      |                |                    | preclitellum | postclitellum | preclitellum | postclitellum | preclitellum | postclitellum | preclitellum | postclitellum | preclitellum | postclitellum | preclitellum | postclitellum | preclitellum | postclitellum |
| Holotype CUMZ 3210 | 47 | 77 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 36 | 42 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
| Paratype CUMZ 3211 | 35 | 75 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 40 | 42 | 6 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXV |
| 1 | 44 | 76 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 36 | 42 | 5 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 2 | 39 | 65 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 37 | 46 | 4 | XVIII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 3 | 44 | 70 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 36 | 49 | 5 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 4 | 47 | 78 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 38 | 45 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 5 | 37 | 68 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 40 | 44 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 6 | 38 | 77 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 4/5 | 43 | 48 | 5 | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIV |
| 7 | 37 | 52 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 4/5 | 38 | 42 | 4 | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIV |
| 8 | 35 | 57 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 4/5 | 41 | 44 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 9 | 38 | 78 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 36 | 40 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 10 | 42 | 77 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 4/5 | 42 | 47 | 4 | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIII |
| 11 | 45 | 77 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 39 | 45 | 5 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 12 | 40 | 77 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 40 | 48 | 4 | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIV |
| 13 | 39 | 77 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 39 | 47 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 14 | 43 | 77 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 40 | 44 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
| 15 | 40 | 75 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 41 | 49 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 16 | 37 | 75 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 4/5 | 36 | 46 | 4 | XVII–XXI | XXVII–XXIV |
| 17 | 36 | 60 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 40 | 47 | 5 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIV |
| 18 | 39 | 75 | VII, VIII | XVII, XVIII | 5/6 | 37 | 44 | 4 | XVII–XX | XXVII–XXIII |
| Types | Body length (mm) | Number of segments | Location of genital markings | First dorsal pore | Number of setae | Between male pore | Prostate glands | Intestinal caeca |
|-------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 20    | 47              | 78                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 4/5            | 36, 42          | 4              | XVII–XX        | XXVII–XXV      |
| 21    | 42              | 71                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 5/6            | 40, 46          | 4              | XVII–XX        | XXVII–XIV      |
| 22    | 35              | 56                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 4/5            | 41, 43          | 4              | XVII–XIX       | XXVII–XXIV     |
| 23    | 36              | 69                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 5/6            | 36, 45          | 4              | XVII–XX        | XXVII–XXV      |
| 24    | 42              | 73                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 5/6            | 36, 46          | 4              | XVII–XX        | XXVII–XIV      |
| 25    | 44              | 76                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 4/5            | 39, 47          | 6              | XVI–XX         | XXVII–XXV      |
| 26    | 35              | 69                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 5/6            | 36, 44          | 4              | XVII–XIX       | XXVII–XXIII     |
| 27    | 38              | 75                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 5/6            | 37, 45          | 4              | XVII–XX        | XXVII–XXIV     |
| 28    | 35              | 78                | VII, VIII                  | XVII, XVIII      | 5/6            | 39, 44          | 4              | XVII–XIX       | XXVII–XXV      |
All the key morphological characters of the holotype and paratype specimens are given in Table 5.

**Variation:** The holotype measures 47 mm body length with 77 segments and the first dorsal pore located at 5/6; the twenty eight paratypes range in size between 35–47 mm (39.75±4.27 mm) body length with 52–78 segments, and first dorsal pore at 4/5 (8 samples) or 5/6 (20 samples) (Table 5).

**Type locality:** Srinan National Park, Nan province, Thailand, 18°22’11.1”N, 100°50’23.2”E, 607 meters elevation (30th September 2010).

**Etymology:** This species was named after the type locality Srinan National Park.

**Type material:** The holotype (CUMZ 3210) and 25 paratypes (CUMZ 3211) are deposited in Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology. Another five paratypes will be deposited in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH), and four paratypes in the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

**Habitat:** Found in the top soil at about 10 cm depth, the soil surface covered with leaf litters of deciduous forest. The soil was carefully dug close to the castes.

**Diagnosis:** *Amynthas srinan* sp. n. is the smallest *Amynthas* ever collected in Thailand. Male pores on distinct round porophores, genital markings paired near mid ventral of VII, VIII, XVII and XVIII; each with genital marking glands. Each spermathecae consists of a kidney-shaped ampulla and an oval shaped diverticulum. Testes sacs ventrally joined, intestinal origin XV, intestinal caeca simple, first dorsal pores at 4/5 or 5/6.

**Remarks:** *Amynthas srinan* sp. n., along with *A. exiguus exiguus* and *A. tontong* sp. n., is one of if not the smallest *Amynthas* recorded so far. It has external characteristics which are easily seen in both newly collected and preserved materials. Compared with the two other closely related species from Laos, *A. chandyi* and *A. namphouinensis*, which belong in the same zebrus-group, *A. chandyi* is very similar in appearance to *A. srinan* sp. n. However, they clearly differ in certain specific details of their significant characters, such as the distance between the mp which in *A. srinan* sp. n. is 1.5 mm for holotype and ranged from 1.5–2.0 mm (1.41±4.27 mm), while in *A. chandyi* this ranged from 1.5–2.4 mm. The distance between the male pores as a fraction of the estimated circumference of the 18th segment is 0.24–0.30 in *A. srinan* sp. n., and 0.14–0.32 in *A. chandyi*. This is not convincing as a diagnostic difference, because there is significant overlap with the highly variable *A. chandyi*. In addition, although genital markings are clearly observed in both *A. chandyi* and *A. srinan* sp. n. on the sc and mp areas, *A. srinan* sp. n. has a much larger number and different arrangement of such markings. The distance between pairs of sp is quite similar, being 1.5–2.0 mm (1.34±2.31mm) in *A. srinan* sp. n. and 1.2–1.5 mm in *A. chandyi*.

**Discussion**

The genus *Amynthas* is widely distributed in the Asian continent, where it is one of the dominant genera. In Thailand it occurs in various types of lowland forest habi-
tats, dry evergreen, moist evergreen, deciduous and limestone forests, encompassing diverse soil pH values, from acidic to alkali soils (Chantaravisoot, 2007) and from clay to muddy sand substrates (Kosavititkul, 2005; Somniyam, 2008; Blakemore et al., 2007). The current four new species described here were all are found in one area (Nan province) but the four habitat types were quite diverse all the same. *Amynthas phatubensis* sp. n. was found in a limestone area with a mild alkali substrate (pH 7.5–8) of a clay loam structure, whilst the other three species were found in harder sandy clay substrates. The four new species are broadly similar (and so potentially related) to the two species described from Laos, *A. chandyi* and *A. namphouinensis*, but differ in both the external and internal morphological characteristics. The geographic structures of Luang Prabang Mountain and Phi Pan Nam Mountain ranges are important barriers for species from both the Thai (Nan province) and Laos side (Xayabouli province) and may have played an important part in their speciation. In addition, the Laos species live at a higher altitude than the current new described species from Thailand, and such selective adaptations may facilitate their morphological discrimination.

The four new species range in size, with respect to other *Amynthas* members, from moderate to very small, of which *A. phatubensis* sp. n. is the longest. The other three species are almost the same size and close to the two Laotian species, as shown in Table 6. However, the spermathecae (sc) and genital marking locations of the four new species are clearly different from the two closely related Laos species. The four new *Amynthas* species described here belong to the zebrus-group, as defined by Sims and Easton (1972), in which the spermathecal pores are located on segment 7/8. The size of these four species, relative to other *Amynthas* species, varied from small to medium, ranging from 35 to 148 mm in body length and having from 52 to 114 segments. The first dorsal pore in three of the four species described here, and most of the samples of the fourth species (*A. srinan* sp. n.), is located on intersegmental furrow 5/6, but with some samples of *A. srinan* sp. n. showing the first dorsal pore at 4/5.

*Amynthas phatubensis* sp. n. is the only species that lives in limestone habitats in leaf litter and also in shallow mild alkali topsoil. The soil humidity can be quite low and is of a clay loam structure. The other three species are smaller in size and were found in almost harder, muddy sandy clay substrates. *Amynthas tontong* sp. n. lives in deeper soil of a high humidity around waterfalls. *Amynthas borealis* sp. n. and *A. srinan* sp. n. are found in deciduous forests, which have mostly been modified as agricultural fields. The soil is drier and harder. The genital marking glands of *A. phatubensis* sp. n. and *A. srinan* sp. n. are distinct from other two species (Table 6 and Figs 2–5), whilst *A. tontong* sp. n. show two postclitellar genital markings that are absent in *A. borealis* (Figs 3 and 4). The diagnostic differences are shown in the dichotomous key to the sixteen Thai and two Laotian *Amynthas* species, below.

The zebrus-group is composed of eleven nominal species: *Metaphire hilgendorfi* (Michaelsen, 1892), *A. palmosus* (Chen, 1946), *A. magnipapillatus* (Qui and Wang, 1992), *A. zebrus* (Benham, 1896), *A. culminus* Michaelsen, 1899, *A. principalis* (Michaelsen, 1932), *A. xuongmontis* (Thai & Samphon, 1990), *A. fasciculus* (Qui,
Table 6. Morphological characteristics for between these four new species and two known species from Laos

| Characters                  | A. phatubensis sp. n. | A. tontong sp. n. | A. borealis sp. n. | A. srinan sp. n. | A. namphouinensis | A. chandyi |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Body length (mm)            | 80–148                | 39–53             | 42–54              | 35–47            | 63–92             | 29–58    |
| Number of segments          | 85–112                | 71–80             | 78–89              | 56–77            | 92–94             | 48–52    |
| First dorsal pore           | 5/6                   | 5/6               | 5/6                | 4/5, 5/6         | 4/5, 5/6, 6/7     | 5/6      |
| Setae number                |                       |                   |                    |                  |                   |          |
| VII                         | 51–64                 | 41–46             | 39–54              | 36–45            | 52–61             | 44–54    |
| XX                          | 58–68                 | 52–55             | 40–52              | 42–49            | 53–58             | 44–57    |
| between male pores          | 9–15                  | 0                 | 0                  | 4–6              | 0–7               | 0–7      |
| Preclitellar genital markings |                     |                   |                    |                  |                   |          |
| VII                         | 2                     | 0                 | 0                  | 2                | 0                 | 1–2      |
| VIII                        | 1–7                   | 0                 | 0                  | 2                | 0                 | 1–2      |
| IX                          | 0–1                   | 0                 | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 0        |
| Postclitellar genital markings |                   |                   |                    |                  |                   |          |
| XVII                        | 0–2                   | 0                 | 0                  | 2                | 2                 | 1        |
| XVIII                       | 6–12                  | 2                 | 0                  | 2                | 0                 | 3        |
| XIX                         | 0–1                   | 0                 | 0                  | 0                | 4                 | 1        |
| XX                          | 0–1                   | 0                 | 0                  | 0                | 0                 | 1        |
| Prostate glands             | XVII–XX               | XVII–XX           | XVII–XX            | XVII–XX          | XVII–XIX          | XVI–XXI  |
| Genital marking glands      | sessile at VII, VIII  | Absent            | absent             | stalked          | sessile at XVII–XIX | absent  |
| Intestinal caeca            | simple, XXVII–XXIII   | simple, XXVII–XXV | simple, XXVII–XXV  | simple, XXVII–XXII | simple, XXVII–XXIV | simple, XXVII–XXIV |
Wang & Wang, 1993), *A. heaneyi* James, 2004, *A. namphouinensis* Hong, 2008 and *A. chandyi* Hong, 2008. Within the *zebrus*-group, the first three species show manicate intestinal caeca, while the current newly described four species have simple finger-shaped intestinal caeca. The three latter nominal species are longer in body length (200–300 mm) compared with the size of these four new species which ranged from 35–148 mm. *Amynthas heaneyi* can be distinguished by its proandric character (James, 2004), while the four new described species are holandric. *Amynthas fasciculus* has coiled and kinked spermathecae, whereas *A. phatubensis* sp. n. has large ovate ampulla, *A. tontong* sp. n. has thumb shaped ampulla, *A. borealis* sp. n. has sac-shape ampulla, and *A. srinan* sp. n. has oval to kidney-shaped ampulla. *Amynthas xuongmontis* clearly differs from these four new species in the genital marking located on XVIII, whereas located on VII, VIII, XVII, XVIII in *A. phatubensis* sp. n., located between 18/19 in *A. tontong* sp. n., absent in *A. borealis* sp. n. and located on VII, VIII, XVII, XVIII in *A. srinan* sp. n.

**Figure 6.** External and internal morphology of holotype (BDNUL 0001) of *Amynthas namphouinensis* Hong, 2008 A External ventral view, B internal dorsal view and C spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.
New earthworm species of the genus Amynthas Kinberg, 1867 from Thailand...

Figure 7. External and internal morphology of holotype (BDNUL 0002) of Amynthas chandyi Hong, 2008 A External ventral view, B internal dorsal view and C spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.

Key to Thai and two Laos species of Amynthas

1 First spermathecal pores at 5/6.............................................................. 2  
   – First spermathecal pores after 5/6............................................................... 12  
2 Two pairs of spermathecal pores........................................A. morrisi  
   – More than two pairs of spermathecal pores ............................................. 3  
3 Three pairs of spermathecal pores......................................................... 4  
   – More than three pairs of spermathecal pores ............................................. 6  
4 Genital markings absent .............................................................A. defecta  
   – Genital markings present .............................................................................. 5  
5 Genital markings clustered on XVIII ........................................A. gracilis  
   – Genital markings transverse rows on XVII, XVIII, XIX ........A. papulosus  
6 Genital markings absent ................................................................. 7  
   – Genital markings present .............................................................................. 8  
7 Body length 1 meter or more ..................................................A. mekongianus
Body length less than 300 mm .................................................. A. alexandri

Genital marking glands absent .......................................................... 9

– Genital markings located on 17/18, 18/19 ........................................ A. exigus austrinus

– Genital markings located on VII, VIII, XIX, XX .......................... A. exigus exigus

Intestinal caeca, simple ........................................................................ 11

– Intestinal caeca, manicate ......................................................... A. manicatus decorosus

Genital markings, paired at 18/19, 19/20, 20/21 .......................... A. longicauliculatus

– Genital markings, three trios at 18/19, 19/20, 20/21 ........................ A. comptus

First spermathecal pores at 6/7 ...................................................... 13

– First spermathecal pores after 6/7 .................................................. 14

Genital markings located on 17/18, 18/19 .................................... A. fucosus

– Genital marking located on XVIII .............................................. A. siam

Body length more than 200 mm .................................................. A. hupbonensis

– Body length less than 200 mm ................................................... 15

Genital markings absent ................................................................. 16

– Genital markings present ............................................................. 17

Preclitellar genital markings absent ............................................. 18

– Preclitellar genital markings present ........................................... 19

Genital marking glands absent ..................................................... A. tontong sp. n.

– Genital marking glands present .................................................. A. namphouinensis

Genital marking glands absent ..................................................... A. chandyi

– Genital marking glands, present .................................................. 19

Genital marking glands, sessile .................................................... A. phatubensis sp. n.

– Genital marking glands, stalked .................................................. A. srinan sp. n.

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Appendix 1.

DNA barcode sequences for *A. phatubensis* sp. n. and *A. tontong* sp. n. Positions with variable base are indicated by the appropriate ambiguity code: Y= C or T, R= A or G, K= G or T, M= A or C.

The primer sets used, LCO1490 and HCO2198, amplify a 658 bp fragment of the COI gene in a wide range of invertebrate taxa (Folmer et al 1994):

LCO1490: 5’-GGTCAACAAATCATAAAGATATTGG-3’
HCO2198: 5’-TAAACTTCAGGGTGACCAAAAAATCA-3’

Consensus of 8 sequences of *Amynthas phatubensis* sp. n. **Paratype** CUMZ 3212, Gen-Bank Accession No. HM901031-HM901038.

AACCCTATATTTTCATTTTATAGGTATTTTGAGCCGGTGATAGGATCTGGGAATAAGCCTACTYATCCGAATTGGARTTGAGCCAACCTGGATCTCTTCTGAGGACTCTAGTACTTACATACATTTCATTTCATGCTGGGGCGCGACCCCATTCTATATCAACACCTA...
Consensus of 3 sequences of *Amynthas tontong* sp. n. **Paratype** CUMZ 3207, GenBank Accession No. HQ562073-HQ562076.

AACCCTATATTCATTTTTAGGAATTTTGAGCTGGAATATTTGGAGCAG-GAATAAGACTCTTTATTCGAATTTGAGYTAAGACAGCAGCCCAGATCATTCC-TAGGAAGYGATCATCACTATAAATACCTATTGTACAGCCCATGCGATTCTT-ATAATTTTTCTCCTCRGTAGCTATCTTATTTGAGGCTTTG-GAAATTTGATTACTTCCACTAATGTGTGGGGGCCCCCTGACATACTTTTCCACGACTAAAAATAATAGAGATTTTGACTACTTCCACCATCATTAATTCCCTTTTAGTAGATACCGCCGTCGAGTTTTAGTTTAGCAATTTTCTCCTACTAACACTTGGCGGGGCGATCCTTCAATCTGCTGGGGCTTTGACATAGCTTTC-CCACGACTAAAAATAATAGAGATTTTGACTACTTCCACATTACCATCACTCTTTCCTTTAGTTTAGATCCGCTCCGTTGAAAAAGGTGCGGGGACAGGAT-GAACTGTATACCCACCCAACTAGCAAGGAACATTGCGCCCATGCTGGGC-CATCTGTAGATTATTAGCAATTTTCTCCTACTACACTTGGCGGGGCGATCCTTCAATCTGCTGGGGCTTTGACATAGCTTTCATTTTCTTTCGAGTTACCACTACACTCTACGTCTTTGCTCCGTGGGCGGACATCATTACAATACCTTTACAAGATCGAAATCTCCTCTTCTTGGCTGGCGGGAGCCCTGGCCTGGGGGGCGACCCTATTCTATACCAGCACCCTG