Acanthosaura aurantiacrista (Squamata: Agamidae), a new long horn lizard from northern Thailand

Trivalairat P, Kunya K, Chanhome L, Sumontha M, Vasaruchapong T, Chomngam N, Chiangkul K (2020) Acanthosaura aurantiacrista (Squamata: Agamidae), a new long horn lizard from northern Thailand. Biodiversity Data Journal 8: e48587. https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.8.e48587

ZooBank: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:36973181-29E1-4475-84DC-FB88F5C1564D

Abstract

Background

In Thailand, five species of Acanthosaura have been recorded so far, including Acanthosaura armata from the southern region, A. cardamomensis from the eastern region, A. crucigera from the western region, A. lepidogaster from the northern region and A. phuketensis from the Phuket Island and south-western region. However, comprehensive studies of diversity patterns and distribution of Acanthosaura are still lacking in some areas and need further information for designating areas of special conservation importance and nature protection planning in Thailand.
New information

*Acanthosaura aurantiacris*ta is a new species of long-horned lizard of the genus *Acanthosaura* from northern Thailand. It is distinguished from all other species of *Acanthosaura* by a dagger-like nuchal spine with yellowish-orange colouration in females, bright yellow colouration in males and a combination of other morphological characters: a greater tail length to snout-vent length ratio; a larger postorbital spine, nuchal spine, dorsal spine and occipital spine compared to its head length; a smaller diastema to snout-vent length ratio; a greater number of subdigital lamellae on the fourth finger and fourth toe; and a larger gular pouch than other *Acanthosaura* species. Analysis of mitochondrial ND2 gene sequences revealed a sister clade between the *A. aurantiacris*ta lineage and the *A. crucigera* lineage with a 100% probability of divergence, according to Bayesian analysis and strong support value for Maximum Likelihood analysis. The pairwise distance ranged from 13.8-15.0% between *A. aurantiacris*ta and *A. cardamomensis*, 10.9-14.5% between *A. aurantiacris*ta and *A. crucigera* and 0-1.2% amongst *A. aurantiacris*ta populations. The discovery of this lizard increases the known endemic herpetological diversity and underscores the importance of conservation in the mountain rainforest region of northern Thailand.

**Keywords**

rainforest, Thanon Thong Chai Mountain Range, northern region, ND2

**Introduction**

Currently, fourteen species of agamid lizards of the genus *Acanthosaura* Gray, 1831 are recognised, ranging from Myanmar, east through Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and southern China and southwards through the Malaysian Peninsula and archipelagoes (Gray 1831, Taylor 1963, Manthey 2008, Nguyen et al. 2018, Liu and Rao 2019, Nguyen et al. 2019). They are well-known as the Mountain Horned Dragon or Pricklenape Lizard due to a row of nuchal and dorsal crest scales that extend from neck to tail base (Das 2010). The shape, size and number of the nuchal and dorsal crest scales are diagnostic in *Acanthosaura*: for instance, *Acanthosaura armata* (Hardwick, 1827), *A. capra* (Günther, 1861), *A. cardamomensis* Wood, Grismer, Grismer, Neang, Chav & Holden, 2010, *A. murphyi* Nguyen, Do, Hoang, Nguyen, McCormack, Nguyen, Orlov, Nguyen & Nguyen, 2018, *A. nataliae* Orlov, Truong, & Sang, 2006 and *A. phuketensis* Pauwels, Sumontha, Kunya, Nitikul, Samphanthamit, Wood & Grismer, 2015 are classified as a long-horned group exhibiting the largest nuchal and dorsal spines with lengths greater than 10 mm; *A. bintangensis* Wood, Grismer, Grismer, Northayati, Chan & Bauer, 2009, *A. brachypoda* Ananjeva, Orlov, Nguyen & Ryabov, 2011, *A. crucigera* Boulenger, 1885, *A. lepidogaster* (Cuvier, 1829), *A. phongdienensis* Nguyen, Jin, Vo, Nguyen, Zhou, Che, Murphy, & Zhang, 2019, *A. titiwangsensis* Wood, Grismer, Grismer, Northayati, Chan & Bauer, 2009 and *A. tongbiganensis* Liu & Rao, 2019 belong to a short-horned group exhibiting nuchal and
dorsal spines that are shorter than 10 mm; and the nuchal crest is absent in *A. coronata* Günther, 1861 (Chan-ard et al. 1999, Pauwels et al. 2002, Pauwels et al. 2003, Ananjeva et al. 2008). However, the spines are not the only diagnostic character and modern morphological and molecular techniques are used as identification tools for classifying these agamid lizards.

The recent morphological and molecular investigations of *Acanthosaura* revealed five species across Thailand: *Acanthosaura lepidogaster* from northern region (Das 2010); *A. cardamomensis* from the eastern region and Cambodia (Wood Jr. et al. 2010); *A. crucigera* from the western region and southern Myanmar (Pauwels et al. 2003, Grismer et al. 2008); *A. phuketensis* from Phuket Island and the south-western region (Pauwels et al. 2015); and *A. armata* from the southern region (Chan-ard et al. 1999, Pauwels et al. 2002). Hence, one-third of *Acanthosaura* species have been reported from Thailand so far.

A recent field sampling of *Acanthosaura* species across the Thanon Thong Chai Mountain Range in Thailand revealed three populations: *A. crucigera*, *A. lepidogaster* and a new population which has a morphology different from the other species. This population exhibits a large yellowish-orange (females) or bright yellow (males) nuchal crest on the dorsum. To clarify the taxonomic status of this *Acanthosaura* population, we describe the new species on the basis of its distinctive morphological and colouration characteristics and a genetic analysis. Its name is provided to be included in conservation planning for agamid species in wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in the Thanon Thong Chai Mountain Range.

### Materials and methods

#### Specimen collection

Specimens were collected by hand from two locations in Thanon Thong Chai Mountain Range, Thailand: one specimen from Mae Sariang District, Mae Hong Son Province on 27 April 2018; seven specimens from Sop Khong Subdistrict, Omkoi District, Chiang Mai Province on 14 November 2018; and one specimen from Nang Lae Subdistrict, Mueang District, Chiang Rai Province on 24 January 2019. For all specimens, photographs were taken to document their colour patterns prior to euthanisation. Liver samples were taken and stored in absolute ethanol. Specimens were fixed in 10% formalin before being transferred to 70% ethanol for permanent storage.

Comparative materials of all currently recognised species of *Acanthosaura* in Thailand were examined from the Natural History Museum, National Science Museum, Technopolis, Pathum Thani Province (THNHM) and the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute, Thai Red Cross Society, Bangkok Province, Thailand (QSMI): *Acanthosaura armata* from Hala-Bala, Narathiwat Province (THNHM15209), Sungai Kolok District, Narathiwat Province (THNHM18884); *Acanthosaura cardamomensis* from Koh Kut, Trat Province (THNHM15597, 20169), Khao Yai National Park, Nakhon Ratchasrima Province (THNHM24711, 24712, 24715); *Acanthosaura crucigera* from Na Yong District, Trang
Province (QSMI1594, THNHM28061-28062), Taksin Maharat National Park, Muang District, Tak Province (QSMI1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, THNHM28507, 28508), Thong Pha Phum District, Kanchanaburi Province (THNHM22658), Huai Kha Khaeng, Lan Sak District, Uthai Thani Province (THNHM18594); *Acanthosaura lepidogaster* from Phu Luang District, Loei Province (THNHM08736, 08777), Phu Kieo District, Chaïyaphum Province (THNHM19619), Ban Sun Phae Kae, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province (THNHM20537), Roi Praputabath, Umphang District, Tak Province (THNHM20647), Huai Na Tee, Pua District, Nan Province (THNHM10080), Doi Khun Tan National Park, Lam Phun Province (THNHM16569, 16570, 16571); *Acanthosaura phuketensis* from Ton Sai Waterfall, Thalang District, Phuket Province (THNHM08865), Khao Sok, Ban Ta Khun, Surat Thani Province (THNHM22663); and *Acanthosaura nataliae* from Xe Sap, Samoy, Lao (THNHM13454, 13455).

In addition, the comparative morphological characters of other taxa in the genus *Acanthosaura* were also taken from original descriptions and subsequent studies ( Günther 1861, Boulenger 1885, Ananjeva et al. 2008, Wood Jr. et al. 2009, Wood Jr. et al. 2010, Ananjeva et al. 2011, Nguyen et al. 2018, Pauwels et al. 2015, Nguyen et al. 2019). For species concepts, the combination of morphological species concept and evolutionary species concept were applied to describe genealogical relationships (Wiley and Lieberman 2011).

**Morphological study**

Forty-three meristic and measured characters were noted for each specimen of the type series. Measurements were recorded to the nearest 0.01 mm with a Vernier calliper. Measurements were performed on the left side (Wood Jr. et al. 2009, Wood Jr. et al. 2010, Ananjeva et al. 2011). Meristic characters were counted on the left and right sides, respectively. The list and methodology of measurements and meristic counts followed Pauwels et al. (2015): SVL – snout-vent length, measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the vent; TaL – tail length, measured from the posterior margin of the vent to the tip of the tail; TBW – tail base width, maximum width at tail base; HL – head length, measured from the posterior edge of the rectis of the jaw to the tip of the snout; HW – head width, maximum head width, the width at the level of the tympanum; HD – maximum head height, measured across the parietal region; SL – snout length, measured from the anterior edge of the orbit to the tip of the snout; ORBIT – orbit diameter, measured from the posterior to the anterior edge of the orbit; EYE – eye diameter, measured from the posterior to the anterior edge of the eye; TD – tympanum diameter, measured horizontally from the anterior to the posterior border of the tympanum; TN – scales absent on tympanum (0) or present (1); PS – postorbital spine length, measured from the base to the tip of the spine; NSL – maximum length of the largest spine in the nuchal crest measured from the base to the tip; DS – maximum length of the largest spine in the dorsal crest measured from the base to the tip; WNC – maximum width of the spines in the nuchal crest, measured at the base; DIAS – length of the diastema, measured from the posterior end of the nuchal crest to the anterior end of the dorsal crest; DIASN – number of scales in the vertebral crest scale diastema counted from the posterior end of the nuchal crest to the anterior end of the
dorsal crest; FOREL – forelimb length, measured from axilla to the proximal edge of the palmar region; HINDL – hindlimb length, measured from the groin to the proximal edge of the plantar region; SUPRAL – number of supralabials; INFRAL – number of infralabials; VENT – number of ventral scales counted at the midline from the anterior edge of the shoulders to the edge of the vent; FI – number of subdigital lamellae on the fourth finger; TO – subdigital lamellae on the fourth toe; OS – length of the occipital spine, measured from the base to the tip; NSSOS – number of scales surrounding the occipital spine; CS – number of canthus rostralis-supraciliary scales, counted from the nasal scale to the posterior end of the ridge at the posterior margin of the orbit; RW – rostral width; RH – rostral height; RS – number of scales bordering the rostral scale; NS – number of scales between the nasals; NCS – number of scales between the fifth canthals and the nasal; NSSLC – number of scales between the seventh supralabial and the sixth canthal; MW – mental width; MH – mental height; PM – number of scales bordering the mental; YAS – presence (1) or absence (0) of a Y-shaped arrangement of enlarged scales on the snout; ND – presence (1) or absence (0) of a black, diamond shaped, nuchal collar; LKP – presence (1) or absence (0) of a light knee patch; BEP – presence (1) or absence (0) of a black eye patch; ESBO – presence (1) or absence (0) of elliptical scales below the orbit; GP – size of gular pouch scored as absent, small, medium or large; OF – presence (1) or absence (0) of oblique fold anterior to the forelimb insertion.

Molecular techniques

Molecular data were generated for seven specimens from Thanon Thong Chai Mountain Range, with other Acanthosaura taxa and outgroup (Calotes emma) obtained from GenBank (Macey et al. 1997a, Macey et al. 2000, Zug et al. 2006, Okajima and Kumazawa 2010, Wood Jr. et al. 2010, Yu et al. 2015) (Table 1). Liver tissues were used for DNA extraction with TIANamp Genomic DNA Kit. The samples were lysed using proteinase K for 3-4 hours at 56°C. The DNA was eluted from the spin column with 200 µl of buffer.

Table 1.
GenBank accession numbers for ND2 sequence and catalogue number of vouchers used in phylogenetic analyses of Acanthosaura.

| Taxon                        | Voucher   | GenBank   | Locality                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Acanthosaura aurantiacrista | THNHM28064| MH777406  | Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son, Thailand |
| Acanthosaura aurantiacrista | QSMI1446  | MK798128  | Sop Khong, Omkoi, Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| Acanthosaura aurantiacrista | THNHM28521| MK798129  | Sop Khong, Omkoi, Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| Acanthosaura aurantiacrista | THNHM28522| MK798130  | Sop Khong, Omkoi, Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| Acanthosaura aurantiacrista | QSMI1447  | MK798131  | Sop Khong, Omkoi, Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| Acanthosaura aurantiacrista | QSMI1448  | MK798132  | Sop Khong, Omkoi, Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| Acanthosaura aurantiacrista | THNHM28523| MK798133  | Sop Khong, Omkoi, Chiang Mai, Thailand |
Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was prepared using an EP0402 TAQ DNA POLYMERASE. Two primers, METF6 (L4437a; 5’-AAGCTTTCGGGCCCATACC-3’) and ACANTHND2.833. R1 (5’-AGGGAGGTTATTGTTGCTAG-3’), were used to amplify a 698 bp fragment of the NADH dehydrogenase subunit 2 (ND2) gene (Macey et al. 1997b, Kalyabiana-Hauf et al. 2004, Gamble et al. 2008, Wood Jr. et al. 2010). PCR protocol for the amplification of genomic DNA began with an initial denaturation for 2 min at 95°C, followed by 95°C for 35 s, annealing at 50°C for 35 s and extension at 72°C for 154 s per cycle for 32 cycles (Jackman et al. 2008).

Phylogenetic analyses

The ND2 sequences were aligned using ClustalW v.1.83 (Thompson et al. 1994) integrated in MEGA6 v.6 (Tamura et al. 2013) with default parameters. All DNA sequences were translated into amino acids to confirm the absence of premature stop codons in the sequences. Average genetic uncorrected distances (pairwise distance) between individuals and mitochondrial clades were calculated in MEGA6 v.6. The Maximum Likelihood analysis (ML) was performed using MEGA6 v.6 with 2000 tree search replicates, 25 initial GAMMA rate categories and final optimisation using four GAMMA shape categories. Bayesian Interference was performed in Mr.Bayes v.3.1.2 (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck 2003), based on best-fit models of sequence evolution selected by Mr.Modeltest 2.3 (Nylander 2004) under the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). To calculate Bayesian posterior probabilites (BPP), 2000 pseudo-replicates of the rapid bootstrap algorithm were
run for 20 million generations with tree sampling every 100 generations implementing a General Time Reversible model (GTR) and GAMMA distribution of nucleotide rates. Bayesian posterior probabilities were then estimated using a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampling approach after the average standard deviations once reached 0.002. A 50% majority consensus tree was generated after discarding 20% of initial samples as burn-in. Bootstrap values 70% for ML and BPP of ≥ 95% were considered as they are indicators of strongly-supported nodes (Hillis and Bull 1993, Felsenstein 2004).

Taxon treatment

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista*, sp. n.

- **ZooBank** [urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E0D80F05-8884-4426-B2D6-6C939310D2A4](urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E0D80F05-8884-4426-B2D6-6C939310D2A4)

**Materials**

**Holotype:**
- country: Thailand (northern region); stateProvince: Mae Hong Son Province; county: Mae Sariang District; verbatimElevation: 728 m; verbatimLatitude: 18°09'02.8"N; verbatimLongitude: 97°58'50.2"E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: degrees minutes seconds; verbatimSRS: WGS84; year: 2018; month: April; day: 27; habitat: evergreen forests on hills up to at least 600 m elevation; fieldNotes: collector = Poramad Trivalaira; institutionCode: THNHM; collectionCode: 28064; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; dynamicProperties: sex = adult female

**Paratypes:**
- a. country: Thailand (northern region); stateProvince: Chiang Mai Province; county: Omkoi District; locality: Sop Khong Subdistrict; verbatimElevation: 935; verbatimLatitude: 17°39'45.4"N; verbatimLongitude: 98°11'53.6"E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: degrees minutes seconds; verbatimSRS: WGS84; year: 2018; month: November; day: 14; habitat: evergreen forests on hills up to at least 600 m elevation; fieldNotes: collector = Kirati Kunya; institutionCode: THNHM; collectionCode: 28521; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; dynamicProperties: sex = adult female
- b. institutionCode: THNHM; collectionCode: 28522; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; dynamicProperties: sex = adult female, same collection date, collector and location as paratype THNHM28521
- c. institutionCode: THNHM; collectionCode: 28523; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; dynamicProperties: sex = subadult male, same collection date, collector and location as the THNHM28521
- d. institutionCode: THNHM; collectionCode: 28524; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; dynamicProperties: sex = subadult male, same collection date, collector and location as the THNHM28521
- e. institutionCode: QSMI; collectionCode: 1446; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; dynamicProperties: sex = adult female, same collection date, collector and location as the THNHM28521
- f. institutionCode: QSMI; collectionCode: 1447; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; dynamicProperties: sex = adult female, same collection date, collector and location as the THNHM28521
Molecular analyses

Molecular comparisons of 698 nucleotides of the ND2 gene revealed differences of 0-1.2% amongst seven specimens of *Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. (GenBank MH777406, MK798128, MK798129, MK798130, MK798131, MK798132 and MK798133) (Table 2). The ND2 gene sequences of the seven specimens of *A. aurantiacrista* sp. n. showed differences of 10.9-14.5% compared to eight specimens of *A. crucigera* (GenBank GU817389, HM143889, MH777402, MH777403, MH777404, MH777405, MH777407 and MH777408); differences of 13.8-15.0% compared to two specimens of *A. cardamomensis* (GenBank GU817397 and GU817400); differences of 16.2-16.3% compared to two specimens of *A. armata* (GenBank AB266452 and NC014175); differences of 18.0-19.6% compared to two specimens of *A. lepidogaster* (GenBank AF128499 and KR092427); and differences of 19.1-19.8% compared to a specimen of *A. capra* (GenBank AF128498) (Table 4). The phylogenetic relationships within the genus *Acanthosaura* revealed through Maximum-Likelihood trees and Bayesian Inference tree of the ND2 gene showed high posterior probabilities and high bootstrap support values (Fig. 1). The *A. aurantiacrista* sp. n. lineage was sister to the *A. crucigera* and *A. cardamomensis* lineage and warrants separate species recognition.

Table 2.
Pairwise distance values (percentages) of the ND2 gene within and amongst six species of the genus *Acanthosaura* and the outgroup *Calotes emma*.

| Taxon                              | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Calotes emma                       | -   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Acanthosaura armata                | 33.2| 0   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Acanthosaura cardamomensis         | 34.4-35.4 | 16.5-17.2 | 1.7 |
| Acanthosaura aurantiacrista sp. n. | 31.6-32.6 | 16.2-16.3 | 13.8-15.0 | 0-1.2 |
| Acanthosaura crucigera             | 34.8-36.7 | 18.9-21.5 | 14.0-15.5 | 10.9-14.5 | 0-10.9 |
| Acanthosaura capra                 | 34.4 | 17.3 | 19.9-21.0 | 19.1-19.8 | 21.5-23.3 | -   |
| Acanthosaura lepidogaster          | 36.3 | 18.2-18.9 | 18.2-22.2 | 18.0-19.6 | 19.9-23.7 | 16.3-18.5 | 9.2 |

Morphological comparison

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. armata* in presenting fewer INFRAL (9-11 vs. 12-15), more FI (17-23 vs. 13-17), more TO (25-29 vs. 19-26), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 6-10), fewer NCS (11-13 vs. 10-17) and the presence of a BEP and more GP (1-4 vs. 1) (Suppl. material 1).
Acanthosaura aurantiacrista sp. n. differs from A. bintangensis in presenting greater TaL/SVL ratio (1.40-1.70 vs. 1.30-1.40), greater PS/HL ratio (0.24-0.84 vs. 0.07-0.19), greater DS/HL ratio (0.15-0.38 vs. 0.08-0.09), fewer DIASN (8-9 vs. 11-15), more VENT (63-66 vs. 51-55), fewer NSSOS (5 vs. 6-7), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 8) and the presence of a LKP.

Acanthosaura aurantiacrista sp. n. differs from A. brachypoda in presenting greater PS/HL ratio (0.24-0.84 vs. 0.11), greater DS/HL ratio (0.15-0.38 vs. 0.06), fewer RS (4-6 vs. 5-9), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 9) and more GP (1-4 vs. 0).

Figure 1. doi
Phylogenetic analysis of the mitochondrial NADH dehydrogenase subunit 2 gene (ND2) of genus Acanthosaura and Calotes emma_DQ289460. The upper diagram is from the Bayesian analysis; the lower is from the Maximum Likelihood analysis.
*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. capra* in presenting fewer INFRAL (9-11 vs. 12-13), more FI (17-23 vs. 16-17), more TO (25-29 vs. 22-24), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 9) and the presence of an occipital spine and scales surrounding the occipital spine.

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. cardamomensis* in presenting fewer RS (4-6 vs. 7-9), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 7-10) and fewer NSSLC (9-13 vs. 10-19).

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. coronata* in presenting greater TaL/SVL ratio (1.40-1.70 vs. 0.60-1.00), more FI (17-23 vs. 13-14), more TO (25-29 vs. 17-19), fewer RS (4-6 vs. 9), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 7-9), fewer NR (1-2 vs. 3-4) and the presence of a posterior spine, nuchal spine, dorsal spine, diastema, occipital spine, YAS, ND, BEP and more GP (1-4 vs. 0).

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. crucigera* in presenting fewer DIASN (8-9 vs. 9-25), more VENT (63-66 vs. 55-63), more FI (17-23 vs. 16-18), more TO (25-29 vs. 21-26), fewer RS (4-6 vs. 7-8), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 7-9) and more GP (1-4 vs. 1-2).

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. lepidogaster* in presenting greater TaL/SVL ratio (1.40-1.70 vs. 1.00-1.50), greater PS/HL ratio (0.24-0.84 vs. 0.06-0.17), greater NSL/HL ratio (0.35-0.95 vs. 0.12-0.15), greater DS/HL ratio (0.15-0.38 vs. 0.06-0.15), fewer DIASN (8-9 vs. 10-14), more VENT (63-66 vs. 52-61), more TO (25-29 vs. 22-23), greater OS/HL ratio (0.19-0.44 vs. 0.14-0.15), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 7-8), fewer PM (4 vs. 5), absence of scale on tympanum and more GP (1-4 vs. 0-1).

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. murphyi* in presenting greater PS/HL ratio (0.24-0.84 vs. 0.16-0.34), greater NSL/HL ratio (0.35-0.95 vs. 0.24-0.43), fewer INFRAL (9-11 vs. 12-14), more FI (17-23 vs. 15-18), more TO (25-29 vs. 21-23), fewer RS (4-6 vs. 8-9), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 7-8), fewer NR (1-2 vs. 3-4) and the absence of a tympanum scale.

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. nataliae* in presenting fewer VENT (63-66 vs. 64-71), fewer RS (4-6 vs. 7), fewer NSSLC (9-13 vs. 13-16) and the presence of an occipital spine, scales surrounding the occipital spine, ND and LKP.

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. phongdienensis* in presenting greater PS/HL ratio (0.24-0.84 vs. 0.06-0.09), greater NSL/HL ratio (0.35-0.95 vs. 0.07-0.18), larger DS/HL ratio (0.15-0.38 vs. 0.03-0.07), more FI (17-23 vs. 14-17), more TO (25-29 vs. 19-23) and the presence of a diastema.

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. phuketensis* in presenting greater NSL/HL ratio (0.35-0.95 vs. 0.21-0.39), fewer DIASN (8-9 vs. 12-17), more FI (17-23 vs. 15-17), more TO (25-29 vs. 21-24), fewer RS (4-6 vs. 5-9), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 7-8) and more GP (1-4 vs. 1-2).

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. titiwangsaensis* in presenting greater PS/HL ratio (0.24-0.84 vs. 0.14-0.18), greater NSL/HL ratio (0.35-0.95 vs. 0.11-0.18),
greater DS/HL ratio (0.15-0.38 vs. 0.07-0.09), fewer DIASN (8-9 vs. 10-13), more VENT (63-66 vs. 47-57), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 8) and the presence of a LKP.

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. differs from *A. tongbiguanensis* in presenting greater PS/HL ratio (0.24-0.84 vs. 0.13-0.19), greater NSL/HL ratio (0.35-0.95 vs. 0.15-0.21), greater OS/HL ratio (0.19-0.44 vs. 0.16-0.23), fewer RS (4-6 vs. 6-9), fewer NS (5-6 vs. 8-9) and more GP (1-4 vs. 1-2).

**Diagnosis:** *Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. is differentiated from all other congeners by this combination of characters: A large size (maximum SVL 130.1 mm for males and 119.3 mm for females) and a single long conical spine above the posterior margin of the eye; a large spine on the occiput between the tympanum and nuchal crest; tympanum naked, large, roundish; large developed gular pouch; scales on flanks randomly intermixed with small keeled and small tubercle scales; large nuchal crest with 8 large dagger-like and pointed spines; narrow diastema with 8-9 scales between the nuchal and vertebral crests; vertebral crest composed of large dagger-like, pointed spines beginning at the shoulder region and decreasing in size until the base of the tail; nuchal and dorsal crests are orange in females and yellow in males; tail 1.40-1.70 times the SVL; and black collar and black eye patch present, extending posteriorly until reaching the nuchal crest.

**Description**

**Description of the holotype:** Adult female. SVL 105.7 mm; TaL 151.8 mm (1.44 times SVL), tail complete; HL (23.3 mm) slightly longer than HW (18.9 mm); HL one-fifth SVL (0.22 times SVL), HW narrow (0.179 times SVL) and HD tall (0.64 times HL); head triangular in dorsal and lateral views; SL moderately long (0.46 times HL); RW wide (2.31 times RH); steeply sloping anteriorly; CS prominent, forming a large projecting shelf extending above eye, composed of 14/13 large scales; shelf terminates with a notch anterior to postorbital spine; rostrum moderate in size, rectangular, bordered laterally by first SUPRALs and posteriorly by five smaller scales; nostrils roundish, surrounded by one prenasal anteriorly, four postnasals posteriorly and two subnasals; six NS; oval supranasals; large scales above orbit weakly keeled; three rows of moderately-keeled scales below orbit extending from the anterior margin of the eye to posterior; large EYE (0.28 times HL) and ORBIT (0.44 times HL); interorbital, prefrontal and frontal scales slightly keeled and smaller than scales below orbit; seven large, keeled, azygous prefrontal scales arranged in a Y-shaped pattern; parietal eyespot surrounded by a larger row of scales; large conical PS above posterior margin of the eye surrounded by five small lanceolate scales; single row of seven large keeled scales extending from suborbital below posterior margin of eye to above tympanic margin, increasing in size posteriorly; elongated conical OS on lateral margin of nape surrounded by a rosette of five small lanceolate NSSOS; tympanum exposed, roundish, with a size two-thirds that of EYE (0.69 times EYE), surrounded by tiny conical scales; thirteen rectangular SUPRALs similar in size; mental pentagonal, larger than adjacent INFRALs; two postmentals similar in size, four scales contacting PM; chin shields large, extending posteriorly to angle of jaw, separated from infralabials by...
one scale row anteriorly and three at angle of jaw; eleven rectangular INFRALs of similar size; gular scales sharply keeled and spinose with a larger midventral row; extensible dewlap present; nuchal crest composed of eight elongated, dagger-like scales, bordered on each side by two rows of large, flat, keeled, triangular scales; nuchal crest followed by a diastema of nine DIASN at base of nape; dorsal body crest extending from posterior margin of diastema to base of tail; dorsal crest composed of small laterally compressed, triangular epidermal scales, bordered by a row of smaller paravertebral triangular scales; DS slightly decreasing to sacrum, then fading progressively; and nuchal and dorsal crests present as orange in live specimen (Fig. 2).

Body robust, triangular in cross-section; dorsal body scales small, mixed with some large-keeled scales without a regular pattern, keels projecting posteriorly; pectoral and abdominal scales larger than DS; keeled, semi-transverse rows arranged; keeled scales anterior to large vent; limbs relatively long, dorsal forelimb and hindlimb scales keeled and larger than VENT; five digits on manus; subdigital scales keeled, FI 23/21; five digits on pes; subdigital scales keeled, TO 27/26; TaL 1.44 times SVL, tail covered with keeled spinose scales, keels on subcaudals directed posteriorly; subcaudals much longer than supracaudals; TBW 10.3 mm; and four white creamy eggs with a diameter of approximately 10 mm inside the body.

Figure 2. Holotype THNHM28064 of Acanthosaura aurantiacrista sp. n., adult female from Mae Sariang District, Mae Hong Son Province, Thailand. A. Dorsal and B. Ventral views of the body; C. Lateral and D. Dorsal view of the head; E. In life.
Variation: The female paratypes resemble the holotype in all aspects, and the observed differences were a larger PS (7-10.5 vs. 5.7) and OS (5.3-7.5 vs. 4.5) and greater NSL (9.6-12.7 vs. 8.3), wider WNC (0.9-1.6 vs. 0.6), more SUPRAL (10-11/10 vs. 13/13) and fewer number of FI (18-20/17-20 vs. 23/21), higher number of NSSLC (10 vs. 13) in QSMI1446, QSMI1447, THNHM28521 and THNHM28522, and larger GP (3 vs. 1) in QSMI1446 and THNHM28522. The adult male paratype (QSMI1448) differs from the adult female holotype in presenting a longer SVL (130.1 vs. 105.7), greater TaL (202.2 vs. 151.8) and SL (22.3 vs. 10.7), wider TBW (19.2 vs. 10.3), greater HD (21.7 vs. 14.9), larger ORBIT (8.5 vs. 6.4), longer PS (19.1 vs. 5.7), OS (10 vs. 4.5), greater NSL (21.6 vs. 8.3), FOREL (54.2 vs. 49.8), HINDL (71.4 vs. 59.7) and GP (4 vs. 1) size, wider WNC (2.9 vs. 0.6), narrower DIAS (3.5 vs. 5.4) and fewer number of SUPRAL (10 vs. 13) and FI (19/18 vs. 23/21). Two subadult male paratypes are smaller and present fewer differences in morphological characters compared with the holotype, except for a longer PS (5.5-7.5 vs. 5.7) and OS (5.9 vs. 4.5) in THNHM28523, a greater WNC (0.7-0.8 vs. 0.6) in THNHM28523 and THNHM28524 and higher number of TO (29/29 vs. 27/26) (Fig. 3). Morphometric and meristic data for the type series are shown in Table 3.

Table 3.
Morphometrical (in mm) and meristic data for the type series of Acanthosaura aurantiacrista sp. n. For character abbreviations, see materials and methods. Paired meristic characters are given left/right. NA = not applicable.

|                | Holotype THNHM 28064 Adult female | Paratype QSMI 1446 Adult female | Paratype THNHM 28521 Adult female | Paratype THNHM 28522 Adult female | Paratype QSMI 1447 Adult female | Paratype QSMI 1448 Adult male | Paratype THNHM 28523 Subadult male | Paratype THNHM 28524 Subadult male |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SVL            | 105.7                            | 118.6                           | 119.3                             | 113.8                             | 105                             | 130.1                         | 85.5                              | 80.8                              |
| Tal            | 151.8                            | 163.8                           | 187                               | 173.8                             | 157.5                           | 202.2                         | 139.9                             | 137                               |
| Tal/SVL        | 1.44                             | 1.38                            | 1.57                              | 1.53                              | 1.5                             | 1.55                          | 1.64                              | 1.7                               |
| TBW            | 10.3                             | 11.3                            | 11                                | 10.8                              | 10                              | 19.2                          | 8.9                               | 7.3                               |
| HL             | 23.3                             | 22.4                            | 24.2                              | 20.4                              | 22.6                            | 22.7                          | 16                                | 15.6                              |
| HW             | 18.9                             | 19.7                            | 19.5                              | 19.9                              | 18.3                            | 19.4                          | 15.6                              | 14.7                              |
| HD             | 14.9                             | 18.4                            | 16.6                              | 15.6                              | 19                              | 21.7                          | 13.1                              | 12.5                              |
| SL             | 10.7                             | 9.1                             | 12.4                              | 10                                | 11.8                            | 12.4                          | 6.6                               | 9.1                               |
| ORBIT          | 10.3                             | 11.1                            | 9.9                               | 10                                | 10.4                            | 11.8                          | 6.8                               | 7.3                               |
| EYE            | 6.4                              | 6.3                             | 6.8                               | 7.5                               | 5.9                             | 8.5                           | 4.4                               | 4.8                               |
| TD             | 4.4                              | 3.6                             | 4.3                               | 4.4                               | 4                               | 4.9                           | 2                                 | 3                                 |
| TD/HD          | 0.30                             | 0.2                             | 0.26                              | 0.28                              | 0.21                            | 0.23                          | 0.15                              | 0.24                              |
| TN             | 0                                | 0                               | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                               | 0                             | 0                                 | 0                                 |
|                | Holotype | Paratype QSMI | Paratype THNHM | Paratype QSMI | Paratype THNHM | Paratype QSMI | Paratype THNHM | Paratype THNHM |
|----------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                | THNHM 28064 | 1446          | 28521         | 1447          | 28522         | 1448          | 28523         | 28524         |
|                | Adult female | Adult female | Adult female | Adult female | Adult female | Adult female | Subadult male | Subadult male |
| PS             | 5.7       | 8.5           | 10.5          | 9.4           | 7             | 19.1          | 7.5           | 5.5           |
| PS/HL          | 0.24      | 0.38          | 0.43          | 0.46          | 0.31          | 0.84          | 0.47          | 0.35          |
| NSL            | 8.3       | 9.8           | 12.7          | 9.6           | 11            | 21.6          | 7.3           | 5.5           |
| NSL/HL         | 0.36      | 0.44          | 0.53          | 0.47          | 0.49          | 0.95          | 0.46          | 0.35          |
| DS             | 4.2       | 4.4           | 6.5           | 4.9           | 5.6           | 8.7           | 3.6           | 2.4           |
| DS/HL          | 0.18      | 0.2           | 0.27          | 0.24          | 0.25          | 0.38          | 0.23          | 0.15          |
| WNC            | 0.6       | 0.9           | 1.6           | 1.2           | 1.5           | 2.9           | 0.8           | 0.7           |
| DIAS           | 5.4       | 4.6           | 5.2           | 3.8           | 4             | 3.5           | 3.3           | 3.5           |
| DIAS/SVL       | 0.05      | 0.04          | 0.04          | 0.03          | 0.03          | 0.03          | 0.04          | 0.04          |
| DIASN          | 9         | 9             | 9             | 8             | 8             | 8             | 8             | 8             |
| FOREL          | 49.8/50.2 | 51.5/51.2     | 52.7/53.1     | 45.5/47.1     | 44.6/44.8     | 54.2/52.7     | 37.9/37.8     | 36.8/36.9     |
| HINDL          | 59.7/58.4 | 64.2/60.9     | 70.7/71.9     | 58.6/58.5     | 57.7/59.4     | 71.4/72.9     | 48.4/47.9     | 47.9/46.2     |
| SUPRAL         | 13/13     | 10/10         | 10/10         | 10/10         | 11/NA         | 10/10         | 10/10         | 10/10         |
| INFRAL         | 11/11     | 10/11         | 10/10         | 11/11         | 11/10         | 10/9          | 10/10         | 11/10         |
| VENT           | 66        | 63            | 66            | 63            | 65            | 66            | 63            | 63            |
| FI             | 23/21     | 20/20         | 19/20         | 18/17         | 19/19         | 19/18         | 18/18         | 19/19         |
| TO             | 27/26     | 26/26         | 26/27         | 26/26         | 26/25         | 26/27         | 25/26         | 29/29         |
| OS             | 4.5       | 5.3           | 6.8           | 7.5           | 6.5           | 10            | 5.9           | 3.2           |
| OS/HL          | 0.19      | 0.24          | 0.28          | 0.37          | 0.29          | 0.44          | 0.37          | 0.21          |
| NSSOS          | 5/5       | 5/5           | 5/5           | 5/5           | 5/5           | 5/5           | 5/5           | 5/5           |
| CS             | 14/13     | 11/11         | 12/12         | 11/11         | 10/10         | 12/11         | 10/10         | 11/11         |
| RW             | 3         | 3.5           | 3.6           | 3.7           | 3             | 3.5           | 2.5           | 2.5           |
| RH             | 1.3       | 1.4           | 2.1           | 1.6           | 1.6           | 1.6           | 0.9           | 1             |
| RS             | 5         | 6             | 6             | 6             | 4             | 5             | 4             | 4             |
| NS             | 6         | 6             | 6             | 6             | 5             | 6             | 6             | 6             |
| NCS            | 13        | 11            | 11            | 13            | 12            | 13            | 12            | 12            |
| NSCSCL         | 8         | 7             | 7             | 7             | 7             | 7             | 10            | 6             |
| NR             | 2         | 1             | 1             | 1             | 1             | 2             | 1             | 1             |
| NSSLC          | 13        | 10            | 10            | 10            | 10            | 12            | 9             | 10            |
| MW             | 1.1       | 1.2           | 2.1           | 1.5           | 1.1           | 2.5           | 2             | 1.1           |
Holotype
THNHM
28064
Adult
female
Paratype
QSMI
1446
Adult
female
Paratype
THNHM
28521
Adult
female
Paratype
THNHM
28522
Adult
female
Paratype
QSMI
1447
Adult
female
Paratype
QSMI
1448
Adult
male
Paratype
THNHM
28523
Subadult
male
Paratype
THNHM
28524
Subadult
male
MH 1.6 1 1.6 1.1 0.9 1.2 1.5 0.8
PM 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
YAS 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
ND 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
LKP 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
BEP 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
ESBO 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
GP 1 3 2 3 1 4 1 1
OF 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Coloration in life: Males – Front of head dark with brownish-yellow colouration on the canthals; lips yellow; black eye patch; lateral head and neck yellow; gular pouch white; postorbital and occipital spines creamy yellow; nuchal crest bright yellow with some orange; dorsal crest orange-yellow; body rusty-brown with some brownish-yellow keeled scales; whitish-yellow ocellated spot at the knee and elbow; ventral creamy
white with some dark spots or dirty brown colouration on the abdomen with creamy brown colouration on pectoral and forelimbs; forelimbs and hindlimbs dark brown dorsally; tail banded with dark brown and dirty light brown (Fig. 4).

In addition, the hemipenis of QSMI1448 is everted approximately 10 mm from the cloaca opening to the hemipenis tip on each side. The hemipenis on each side diverged to a symmetrical spongy millet shape with a width of approximately 5 mm. In preserved ethanol, the hemipenes exhibited a creamy yellow colouration.

Females - Front of head whitish-yellow or creamy white; lips orange-yellow; black eye patch; lateral head and neck yellow intermixed with orange; gular pouch white or yellow intermixed with white; postorbital and occipital spines creamy yellow; nuchal crest yellowish-orange or reddish-orange; dorsal crest reddish-orange; body with brownish-grey or rusty-grey marbled reticulum with some grey keeled scales; whitish or whitish-
yellow ocellated spot at the knee and elbow, with certain others indicated on the forelimbs and hindlimbs; ventral creamy white or creamy yellow intermixed with some dark brown on the abdomen, ventral region of forelimbs and hindlimbs; forelimbs and hindlimbs brownish-grey dorsally; tail banded with dark brown and dirty light brown.

**Etymology:** The specific epithet *aurantiacrista* came from a combination of the Latin words *aurantiaco* (orange) and *crista* (crest). The name refers to a distinctive characteristic of the first discovered female specimen, which exhibited nuchal and dorsal crests with an orange colour. We suggest the following common names: kingkakhaownaam seesom (Thai), orange crested horned lizard (English), orange-verzierter gehörnter Nackenstachler (German) and Acanthosaurus à crête orange (French).

**Distribution**

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. occurs in the Thanon Thong Chai Mountain Range in northern Thailand: Mae Sariang District, Mae Hong Son Province (18°14'54.8"N, 97°98'38.2"E) at 728 m a.s.l.; Sop Khong Subdistrict, Omkoi District, Chiang Mai Province (17°63'55.4"N, 98°18'15.6"E) at 935 m a.s.l.; and Nang Lae Subdistrict, Mueang District, Chiang Rai Province (20°02'35.3"N, 99°54'12.1"E) at 636 m a.s.l. This species usually lives in rainforests on mountains at elevations over 600 m a.s.l. (Fig. 5).

![Distribution of Acanthosaura species in Thailand.](doi)

**Ecology**

*Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. has been found in evergreen forests on hills up to at least 600 m elevation (Fig. 6). It is active during the day on the ground, logs or rocks or 1-2 m above the ground on trees. During night, it is inactive and sleeps on twigs or trees 1-2 m above the ground. This species displays a defence mechanism against
approach or provocation consisting of falling to the ground and running away to find refuge under rocks, log hollows or shrubs.

Discussion

The comparisons revealed morphological characters of a new long-horned lizard species, *Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n., that were clearly distinct from those of other recognised *Acanthosaura* species, especially the two short-horned lizards, *A. crucigera* and *A. lepidogaster*, whose geographic distributions overlap with that of *A. aurantiacrista* sp. n. in the northern region of Thailand (Cuvier 1829, Boulenger 1885, Grismer et al. 2006, Orlov et al. 2006, Stuart et al. 2006, Ananjeva et al. 2008, Wood Jr. et al. 2009, Wood Jr. et al. 2010, Pauwels et al. 2015). In addition, the molecular analysis indicated that *A. aurantiacrista* sp. n. is closely related to *A. crucigera* and geographically-distant species *A. cardamomensis* (Wood et al. 2010). This herpetological discovery yields the sixth member of the genus *Acanthosaura* from Thailand and the taxa in this genus that have not yet been identified, will be described in the near future.

Many forest areas in northern regions of Thailand are currently faced with deforestation due to timber logging and forest fire for human use, which negatively influences the conservation of the herpetological fauna (Delang 2011). However, *Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n. is expected to distribute throughout the Thanon Thong Chai Mountain Range, which includes several important protected areas where the biological fauna is preserved in northern regions of Thailand, such as Doi Inthanon National Park; Doi Suthep-Pui National Park; Khun Khan National Park; Mae Ngao National Park; Mae Ping National Park; Mae Tho National Park; Mae Wang National Park; Namtok Mae Surin National Park; Op Luang National Park; Op Khan National Park; Chiang Dao Wildlife
Sanctuary; Lum Nam Pai Wildlife Sanctuary; Mae Lao-Mae Sae Wildlife Sanctuary; Mae Tuen Wildlife Sanctuary; and Om Koi Wildlife Sanctuary. Moreover, our research team recommends this new long-horned species, whose nuchal and dorsal crests have an appearance similar to fire, as a representative animal for drawing the attention of the local people, scientific community and government towards addressing the current problem of forest burning in northern regions of Thailand.

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to Sunchai Makchai from Natural History Museum, National Science Museum, Technopolis, Pathum Thani Province (THNHM) for providing access to the collections under their care and Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Kasetsart University for laboratory use, to Chayajit Deekrachang for photographs and information and to Dr. Pradit Sangthong and Surapop Sutthiwises for helping in the molecular analysis.

References

- Ananjeva NB, Orlov NL, Kalyabina-Hauf SA (2008) Species of Acanthosaura Gray, 1831 (Agamidae: Sauria, Reptile) of Vietnam: results of molecular and morphological study. Biology Bulletin 35 (2): 178-186. https://doi.org/10.1134/S106235900802012X
- Ananjeva NB, Orlov NL, Nguyen TT, Ryabov SA (2011) A new species of Acanthosaura (Agamidae, Sauria) from northwest Vietnam. Russian Journal of Herpetology 18 (3): 195-202.
- Boulenger GA (1885) Catalogue of the lizards in the British Museum (Natural History). Second edition. Volume I. Geckonidae, Eublepharidae, Uroplatidae, Pygopodidae, Agamidae . British Museum (Natural History), London, 299-304 pp.
- Chan-ard T, Grossmann W, Gumprecht A, Schulz KD (1999) Amphibians and reptiles of Peninsular Malaysia and Thailand. An illustrated checklist. Amphibien und Reptilien der Halbinsel Malaysia und Thailands. Eine illustrierte Checkliste. Bushmaster Publication, Wuerselen, 240 pp.
- Cuvier G (1829) Le Regne Animal Distribué, d'apres son Organisation, pur servir de base à l'Histoire naturelle des Animaux et d'introduction à l'Anatomie Comparé. Nouvelle Edition. 2. Les Reptiles, Déterville, Paris, 1-406 pp.
- Das I (2010) A field guide to the reptile of Thailand & South-East Asia. New Holland, London.
- Delang CO (2011) Deforestation in northern Thailand: The result of hmong farming practices or Thai development strategies?. Society & Natural Resources 15 (6): 483-501. https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920290069137
- Felsenstein J (2004) Inferring Phylogenies. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, Massachusetts.
- Gamble T, Bauer AM, Greenbuam E, Jackman TR (2008) Evidence for Gondwanan vicariance in an ancient clade of gecko lizard. Journal of Biogeography 35: 88-104.
- Gray JE (1831) A synopsis of the species of the class reptilia . Herprint 1996, Bredell, South Africa.
• Grismer LL, Youmans TM, Wood Jr. PL, Ponce A, Johnson R, Wright SB, Norsham SY (2006) Checklist of the herpetofauna of Pulau Langkawi with taxonomic comments. Hamadryad 29: 15-32.

• Grismer LL, Neng T, Chav T, Wood Jr. PL, Oaks JR, Holden J, Grismer JL, Szutz TR, Youmans TM (2008) Additional amphibians and reptiles from the Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary in the northwestern Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia, with comments on their taxonomy and the discovery of three new species. The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology 56: 161-175.

• Günther A (1861) Second list of Siamese reptiles. Proceeding of the Zoological Society of London 1861: 187-189.

• Hillis DM, Bull JJ (1993) An empirical test of bootstrapping as a method for assessing confidence in phylogenetic analysis. Systematic Biology 42: 182-192. https://doi.org/10.1093/sysbio/42.2.182

• Jackman TR, Bauer AM, Greenbaum E, Glaw F, Vences M (2008) Molecular phylogenetic relationships among species of the Malagasy-Comoran gecko genus Paroedura (Squamata: Gekkonidae). Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 46: 74-81.

• Kalyabiana-Hauf S, Ananjeva NB, Joger U, Lenk P, Murphy RW, Stuart L, Orlov NL, Ho TC, Wink M (2004) Molecular phylogeny of the genus Acanthosaura (Agamidae). Current Herpetology 23 (1): 7-16. https://doi.org/10.5358/hsj.23.7

• Liu S, Rao D (2019) A new species of the genus Acanthosaura from Yunnan, China (Squamata, Agamidar). ZooKeys 888: 105-113. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.888.38491

• Macey JR, Larson A, Ananjeva NB, Papenfuss TJ (1997a) Replication slippage may cause parallel evolution in the secondary structures of mitochondrial transfer RNAs. Molecular Biology and Evolution 14 (1): 30-39. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordjournals.molbev.a025699

• Macey JR, Larson A, Ananjeva NB, Fang Z, Papenfuss TJ (1997b) Two novel gene orders and the role of light-strand replication in rearrangement of the vertebrate mitochondrial genome. Molecular Biology and Evolution 14: 91-104. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordjournals.molbev.a025706

• Macey JR, Schulte JA, Larson A, Ananjeva NB, Wang Y, Pethiyagoda R, Rastegar-Pouyani N, Papenfuss TJ (2000) Evaluating trans-tethys migration: An example using acrodont lizard phylogenetics. Systematic Biology 49 (2): 233-256. https://doi.org/10.1093/sysbio/49.2.233

• Manthey U (2008) Agamid Lizards of Southern Asia – Agamen des südlichen Asien – Draconinae 1. Terralog Vol. 7a, Chimaira. Frankfurt am Main, 160 pp.

• Nguyen L, Do D, Hoang H, Nguyen T, McCormack T, Nguyen T, Orlov N, Nguyen V, Nguyen S (2018) A new species of the genus Acanthosaura Gray, 1831 (Reptilia: Agamidae) from Central Vietnam. Russian Journal of Herpetology 25 (4): 259-274. https://doi.org/10.30906/1026-2296-2018-25-4-259-274

• Nguyen S, Jin J, Dinh B, Nguyen L, Zhou W, Che J, Murphy R, Zhang Y (2019) A new species of Acanthosaura Gray 1831 (Reptilia: Agamidae) from Central Vietnam. Zootaxa 4612 (4): 555-565. https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4612.4.7

• Nylander JA (2004) MrModeltest: Version 2. Program distributed by the author. 2. Evolutionary Biology Centre, Uppsala University, Uppsala.
• Okajima Y, Kumazawa Y (2010) Mitochondrial genomes of acrodont lizards: timing of gene rearrangements and phylogenetic and biogeographic implications. BMC Evolutionary Biology 10: 141. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2148-10-141
• Orlov NL, Nguyen QT, Nguye VS (2006) A new Acanthosaura allied to A. capra Günther, 1861 (Agamidae, Sauria) from Central Vietnam and Southern Laos. Russian Journal of Herpetology 13 (1): 61-76.
• Pauwels OS, Laohawat OA, Naaktae W, Puangjit C, Wisutharom T, Chimsunchart C, David P (2002) Reptile and amphibian diversity in Phang-Nga Province, southern Thailand. Natural History Journal of Chulalongkon University 2 (1): 25-30.
• Pauwels OS, David P, Chimsunchart C, Thirakhupt K (2003) Reptiles of Phetchaburi Province, Western Thailand: a list of species, with natural history notes, and a discussion on the biogeography at the Isthmus of Kra. The Natural History Journal of Chulalongkorn University 3 (1): 233-253.
• Pauwels OS, Sumontha M, Kunya K, Nitikul A, Samphanshanmit P, Wood Jr. PL, Grismer LL (2015) Acanthosaura phuketensis (Squamata: Agamidae), a new long-horned tree agamid from southwestern Thailand. Zootaxa 4020 (3): 473-494. https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4020.3.4
• Ronquist F, Huelsenbeck JP (2003) MRBAYES 3: Bayesian phylogenetic inference under mixed model. Bioinformatics 19: 1572-1574. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btg180
• Stuart BL, Sok K, Neang T (2006) A collection of amphibians and reptiles from hilly eastern Cambodia. The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology 54: 129-155.
• Tamura K, Stecher G, Peterson D, Filipski A, Kumar S (2013) MEGA6: Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis Version 6.0. Molecular Biology and Evolution 30: 2725-2729. https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/mst197
• Taylor EH (1963) The lizards of Thailand. Kansas University Science Bulletin 46 (5): 687-1077.
• Thompson JD, Higgins DG, Gibson TJ (1994) CLUSTAL W: Improving the sensitivity of progressive multiple sequence alignment through sequence weighting, position-specific gap penalties and weight matrix choice. Nucleic Acids Research 22: 4673-4680. https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/22.22.4673
• Wiley EO, Lieberman BS (2011) Phylogenetic: Theory and Practice of Phylogenetic Systematic. Wiley-Blackwell, Singapore, 424 pp. https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118017883
• Wood Jr. PL, Grismer JL, Grismer LL, Northayati A, Chan KO, Bauer AM (2009) Two new montane species of Acanthosaura Gray, 1831 (Squamata: Agamidae) from Peninsular Malaysia. Zootaxa 2012: 28-46. https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.2012.1.2
• Wood Jr. PL, Grismer LL, Grismer JL, Neang T, Chav T, Holden J (2010) A new cryptic species of Acanthosaura Gray, 1831 (Squamata: Agamidae) from Thailand and Cambodia. Zootaxa 2488: 22-38. https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.2488.1.2
• Yu XL, Du Y, Yao YT, Lin CX, Lin LH (2015) The complete mitochondrial genome of Acanthosaura lepidogaster (Squamata: Agamidae). Mitochondrial DNA 28 (2): 182-184.
• Zug GR, Brown HK, Schulte JAI, Vindum JV (2006) Systematics of the garden lizards, Calotes versicolor group (Reptilia, Squamata, Agamidae), in Myanmar: central dry zone populations. Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences 57 (2): 35-68.
Supplementary material

Suppl. material 1: Comparison of morphometric (in mm) and meristic data for all currently recognised species of *Acanthosaura* and *Acanthosaura aurantiacrista* sp. n., “?” = data not available. [doi](#)

Authors: Poramad Trivalairat
Data type: morphological
Brief description: The comparison table of morphometric for *Acanthosaura* lizard
Download file (30.39 kb)