

Panti Bent-toed Gecko (*Cyrtodactylus pantiensis*) at Sungai Menyala, Negeri Sembilan, Peninsular Malaysia

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Observer: Nick Baker.
Photograph by: Nick Baker.
Subject identified by: Nick Baker, L. Lee Grismer.

General location: Sungai Menyala Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan, Peninsular Malaysia.
Precise location of record: Lat 02° 29.540' N, Long E101° 53.572' E
Elevation: 50 metres.
Habitat: Freshwater swamp forest.
Dates and times: 19 December 2018, 20:40 hrs.

Identity of subject: Panti Bent-toed Gecko, *Cyrtodactylus pantiensis* (Reptilia, Sauria, Gekkonidae).

Description of record: A single example, with an estimated snout-vent length of 70 mm, was found facing downwards and clinging to low vegetation (Fig. 1), about 1 metre from the ground, in a roadside gully, at the edge of an area of localised freshwater swamp forest (Fig. 2).

Remarks: The paired, dark, semi-lunar shaped blotches on the upper nape, which are outlined in pale yellow, and the absence of wide, dark confluent, ventrolateral and postorbital stripes are sufficient to identify this gecko as *Cyrtodactylus pantiensis* (Grismer et al, 2008), and to distinguish it from its possible syntopic congeners at the margin of freshwater swamp forest and lowland forest (for example, *C. payacola* and *C. semenanjungensis*, which are both swamp-dwellers, and *C. quadrivirgatus*, which typically prefers non-swamp forest).

C. pantiensis is typically found perched on low vegetation at the edge of forest streams, however in this example the manmade, but now vegetated, roadside gully was dry, as there had been little recent rain.

Three known locations for this species are indicated on the map on page 414 in Grismer (2011): these are Tasik Chini (Pahang), Panti Bunker Trail (Johor) and Sungai Udang Forest (Melaka). This new record appears to be the first for the state of Negeri Sembilan. Sungai Menyala Forest Reserve lies 35 km northwest of Sungai Udang Forest.



Fig. 1.

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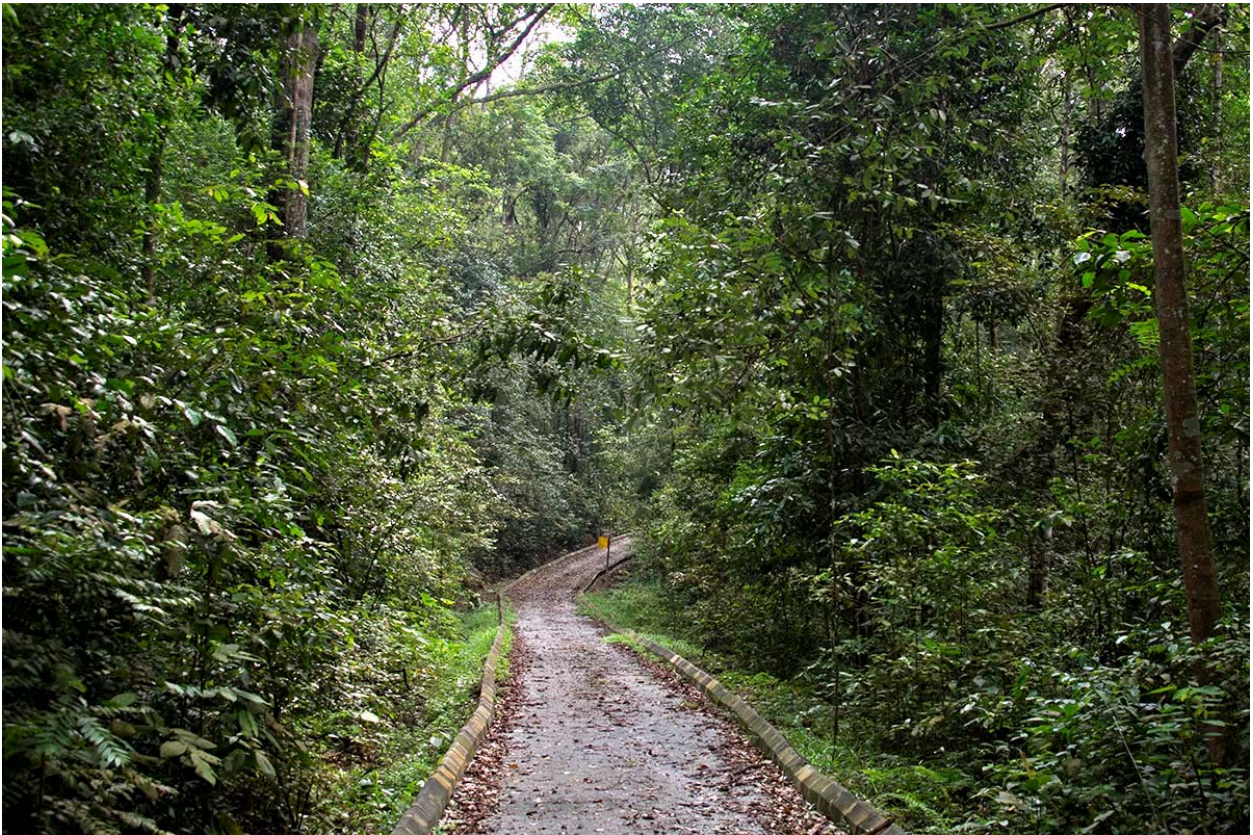


Fig. 2. Forest road leading to low-lying freshwater swamp forest. The gecko was found in the manmade, now vegetated, gully on the left side.

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References:

- Grismer, L. L. (2011). *Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Their Description, Distribution, and Natural History*. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.
- Grismer, L.L., Chan, K.O., Grismer, J.L., Wood, P.L., & Belabut, D. (2008) Three new species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Peninsular Malaysia. *Zootaxa*, 1921, 1–23.