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A new species of *Pseudogekko* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from the Romblon Island Group, Central Philippines

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Abstract

We describe a new species of lizard in the genus *Pseudogekko* from Sibuyan and Tablas islands in the Romblon Island Group of the central Philippines. The new species is diagnosed from other Philippine *Pseudogekko* by body size and shape, color pattern, and multiple differences in scale characteristics. *Pseudogekko isapa* **sp. nov.** has been collected only twice from leaves of shrubs in forested habitat on Sibuyan and Tablas islands. The distinctive new species of false gecko is undoubtedly endemic to this single, isolated island group. The fact that populations of such a distinctive new species of *Pseudogekko* has escaped notice of herpetologists on the reasonably well-studied and largely protected Sibuyan Island further emphasizes the secretive and forest-dependent habits of Philippine false geckos. These characteristics of their behavior and natural history render them difficult to study and challenge biologists' efforts to accurately assess their conservation status.

Key words: biodiversity, conservation, endemism, false gecko, Sibuyan Island, Tablas Island, taxonomy

Introduction

The Philippine archipelago supports high levels of amphibian and reptile species diversity, and the number of endemic taxa has increased rapidly over the two last decades (Diesmos *et al.* 2015). More recent renewed biodiversity survey efforts combined with analyses of genetic variation and continued study of traditional characters of external morphology have increased the rate of species descriptions further (Diesmos & Brown 2011; Brown & Stuart 2012; Brown *et al.* 2013). Not only have these studies resulted in the recognition of new species, but also they have revealed phenotypically cryptic but highly divergent genetic lineages within numerous groups of gekkonid lizards (Brown *et al.* 2009, 2011a,b, 2012a; Grismer *et al.* 2013; Siler *et al.* 2010, 2012, 2014a,b; Davis *et al.* 2015a). These studies highlight the need for continued fine-scale investigations of species boundaries along with periodic updated assessments of conservation status.

Philippine gecko diversity includes members in the genera *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, *Gekko* Laurenti, *Hemidactylus* Oken, *Hemiphyllodactylus* Bleeker, *Lepidodactylus* Fitzinger, *Luperosaurus* Gray, *Pseudogekko* Taylor, and *Ptychozoon* Kuhl & van Hasselt, with more than 50 species in the archipelago (Brown & Alcala 1978; Brown *et al.* 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011a,b, 2012a,b; Grismer *et al.* 2013; Siler *et al.* 2012, 2014b; Davis *et al.* 2015a). Unfortunately, many of these species remain poorly studied, possibly few moreso than the small, endemic radiation of false geckos (genus *Pseudogekko*). Once considered an endemic genus of only four species taxonomic diversity nearly doubled in the last few years (Siler *et al.* 2014b; Davis *et al.* 2015a). Furthermore, recent studies have begun to uncover significant genetic and morphological diversity among populations of false geckos (Siler *et al.* 2014a),

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enabling identification of diagnostic differences between putative taxa, and formal descriptions of new species (Siler *et al.* 2014b; Davis *et al.* 2015a).

Currently, seven species of *Pseudogekko* are recognized in the Philippines: *P. atiorum* Davis, Watters, Köhler, Whitsett, Huron, Brown, Diesmos & Siler, *P. brevipes* Boettger, *P. chavacano* Siler, Welton, Davis, Watters, Davey, Diesmos, Diesmos & Brown, *P. compresicorpus* Taylor, *P. ditoy* Siler, Welton, Davis, Watters, Davey, Diesmos, Diesmos & Brown, *P. pungkaypinit* Siler, Welton, Davis, Watters, Davey, Diesmos, Diesmos & Brown, and *P. smaragdinus* Taylor (Davis *et al.* 2015a). Although two studies have recently revised the systematics of two major species complexes within *Pseudogekko*, the *P. compresicorpus* Complex (Siler *et al.* 2014b) and the *P. brevipes* Complex (Davis *et al.* 2015a), available data suggest that additional undescribed species diversity remains (Siler *et al.* 2014a), including hypothesized undescribed diversity on the islands of the Romblon Island Group. This small assemblage of islands is located in the central Philippines between three major Pleistocene Aggregate Island Complexes (PAICs; Brown & Diesmos 2002; [Luzon, Mindoro, and Visayan PAICs]; Fig. 1). The largest landmasses in this group are the islands of Romblon, Tablas, and Sibuyan (Fig. 1). A recent survey of a forested site on Sibuyan Island in the central Philippines has resulted in the collection of a single morphologically and genetically distinct adult male specimen of a new species of *Pseudogekko*, phenotypically allied with the *P. compresicorpus* Complex (Brown & Alcala 1978; Siler *et al.* 2014a,b). This newly collected specimen shares a unique suite of diagnostic morphological characters with an adult female specimen collected in 1972 on Tablas Island (CAS 139713).

In this paper we use a combination of body size and shape, meristic data from external morphology (scale counts), and inferences from the geological history of the archipelago, to demonstrate that the Romblon Island Group *Pseudogekko* population represents a distinct evolutionary lineage (de Queiroz 1998, 1999; Wiley 1978), worthy of taxonomic recognition. We provide the first illustrations of this species and report all available information from what is known of its natural history, ecology, and geographic distribution.

Materials and methods

Morphological data. We examined fluid-preserved specimens for variation in qualitative, meristic, and mensural characters. Sex was determined by the presence/absence of preanofemoral pores, or when required, by gonadal inspection (Davis *et al.* 2015b), and all measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1 mm with digital calipers by CDS and DRD. Characters were based on Siler *et al.* (2014b) and include: snout–vent length (SVL), tail length, total length, tail width, tail depth, head length, head width, head depth, midbody width, snout length, eye diameter, eye–nares distance, internarial distance, inter-orbital distance, axilla–groin distance, femur length, tibia length, supralabials, infralabials, circumorbitals, preanofemorals, Finger-III scansors, Toe-IV scansors, paravertebrals, and ventrals.

Species concept. As with many recent studies of biodiversity in this archipelago, we follow the general lineage concept of species (de Queiroz 1998, 1999) as an extension of the evolutionary species concept (Simpson 1961; Wiley 1978; Frost & Hillis 1990; de Queiroz 2005). This conceptual framework now has been employed consistently in the Philippines for more than two decades (Brown *et al.* 2000; Brown & Diesmos 2002; Brown & Guttman 2002; Davis *et al.* 2014; Siler *et al.* 2014b, 2016). We consider diagnosable evolutionary lineages as distinct species, if they are demonstrably morphologically and genetically distinct. We additionally find biogeographic inference, in the form of distant or insular allopatry, to further support taxonomic proposals of specific status.

Taxonomic accounts

***Pseudogekko isapa* sp. nov.**
(Fig. 2)

Holotype. PNM 9816 (ACD Field No. 8920), adult male, collected at 21:30 hrs in 2014, in Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park, Municipality of Magdiwang, Barangay Talaba, Romblon Province, Sibuyan Island, Philippines (12.401873°N, 122.539747°E; WGS 84; 479 m elev.), by ACD and party.

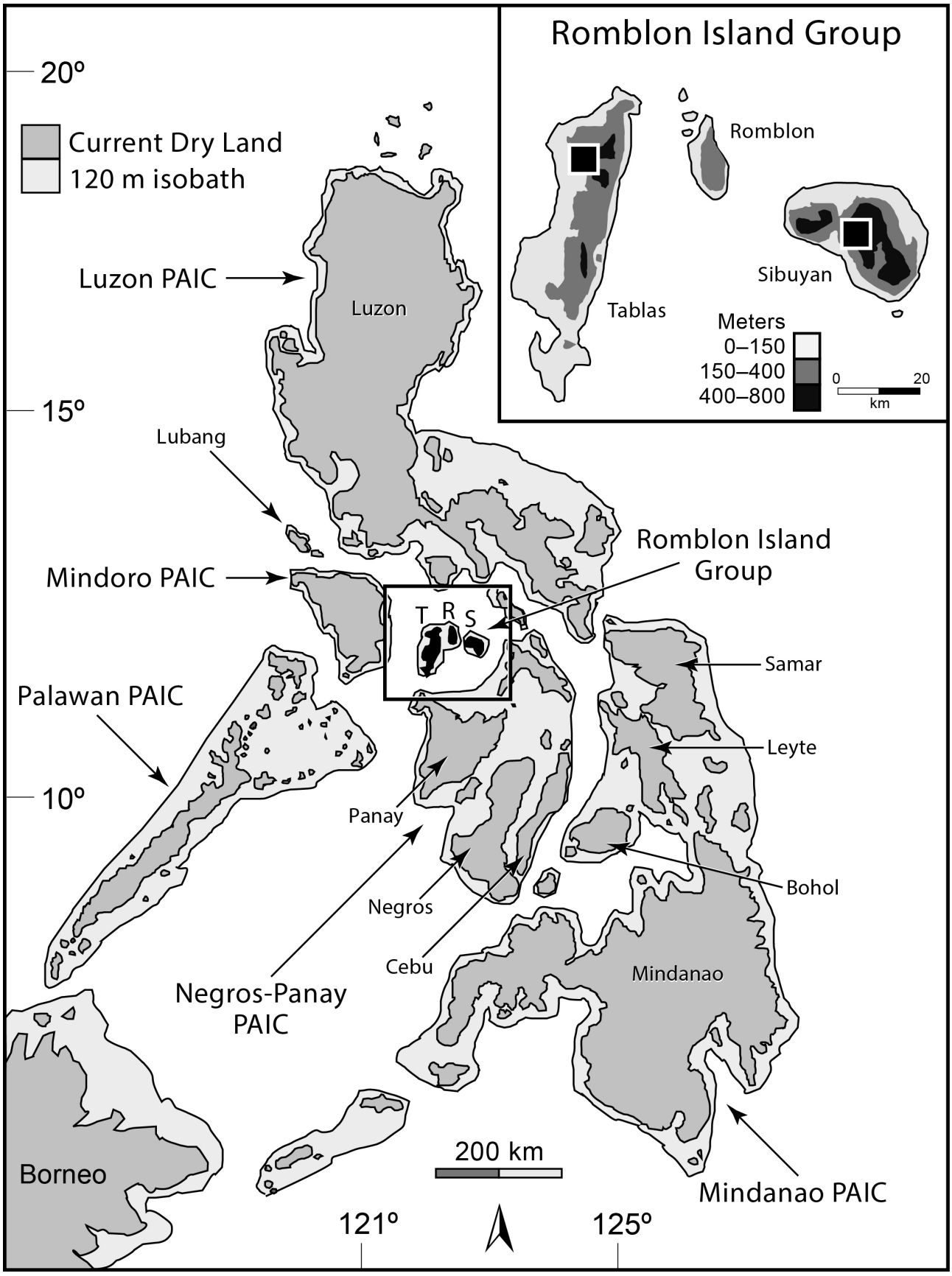

FIGURE 1. Map of the Philippines indicating location of the Romblon Island Group. Inset shows closeup view of the Romblon Island Group and collection localities (white squares) for the new species. PAIC = Pleistocene Aggregate Island Complex, sensu Brown & Diesmos (2002).

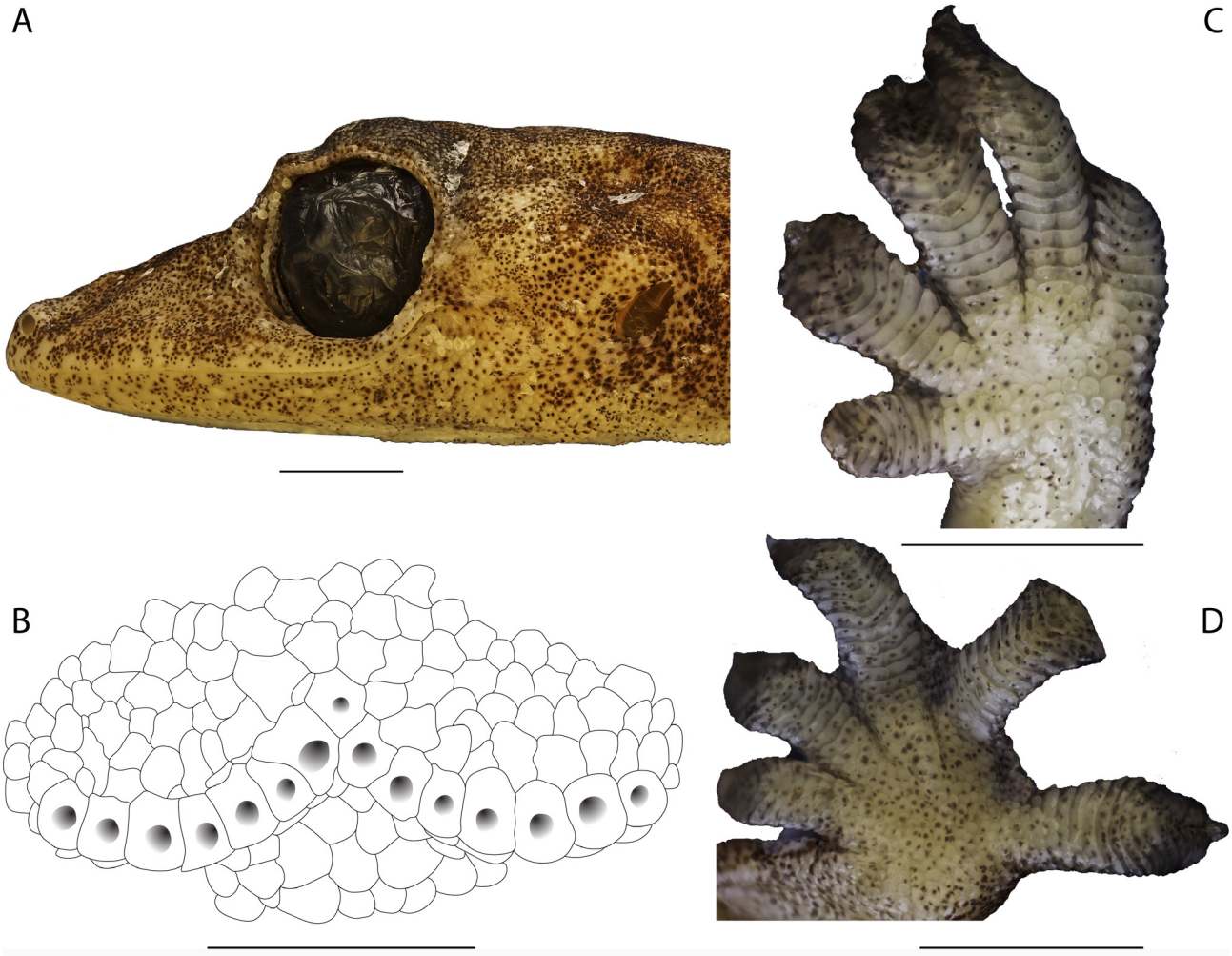

FIGURE 2. Photographs and illustrations of preserved holotype of *Pseudogekko isapa* **sp. nov.** (PNM 9816). Photographs showing A) lateral view of head, C) ventral view of left hand, and D) ventral view of left foot; Illustrations showing B) enlarged precloacal pore-bearing scale series. Illustration by CW. Scale bars = 3 mm.

Paratype. One adult female (CAS 139713) collected on 22 May 1972, on a small vine in secondary forest, from Dubduban Barrio, Municipality of San Agustin, Romblon Province, Tablas Island, Philippines (12.58332°N, 122.1°E; WGS 84; ~17 m elev.), by L. C. Alcala and party.

Diagnosis. *Pseudogekko isapa* **sp. nov.** can be distinguished from congeners by the following combination of characters: (1) body elongate (SVL 62.1, 63.4 mm), (2) axilla–groin distance long (32.1, 33.0 mm), (3) relative head length long (19% SVL), (4) relative snout length long (62, 64% head length), (5) Finger-III scansors 13, (6) Toe-IV scansors 17, (7) paravertebrals 240, 246, (8) ventral scales 135, 141, (9) supralabials 20, 21, (10) infralabials 17, 19, (11) circumorbitals 50, 54, (12) precloacal pores 15 in males, none in females, (13) femoral pores absent, (14) conspicuous head spotting present, (15) conspicuous dorsolateral spotting absent, (16) body striping absent, and (17) interorbital banding present (Tables 1, 2; Fig. 2).

Comparisons. Characters distinguishing *Pseudogekko isapa* **sp. nov.** from all other species of the *Pseudogekko compresicorpus* Complex *sensu* Siler et al. (2014b) are summarized in Tables 1, 2. *Pseudogekko isapa* **sp. nov.** most closely resembles *P. compresicorpus*; however, it differs from this species by having a longer snout–vent length (SVL 62.1–63.4 mm *versus* 54.9–59.7 mm), wider body width (midbody width 8.5–8.9 mm *versus* 5.4–6.7 mm), greater relative head length (head length 19% SVL *versus* 16–18%), fewer Finger-III (13 *versus* 15–17) and Toe-IV (17 *versus* 18 or 19) scansors, more (17–19 *versus* 13–16), more circumorbitals (50–54 *versus* 39–45), more paravertebrals (240–246 *versus* 226–234), more ventrals (135–141 *versus* 127–130), and more enlarged precloacal pore-bearing scales (15 *versus* 10–14; Fig. 2).

TABLE 1. Summary of mensural characters in members of the *Pseudogekko compresicorpus* Complex *sensu* Siler *et al.* (2014b). Sample size, body length and total length in males (m) and females (f), and general geographical distribution are included for reference. SVL, axilla–groin distance, total length, midbody width, head length, head width, and snout length given as range (mm) over mean ± standard deviation; all body proportions given as range (percentage) over mean ± standard deviation.

	isapa **sp. nov.**[1] (1 m, 1 f)	*chavacano* (1 m, 1 f)	*compresicorpus* (3 m, 4 f)	*ditoy* (1 m, 1 f)	*pungkaypinit* (4 m, 2 f)
Range	Romblon Island Group	Western Mindanao Island	Luzon Faunal Region	Samar & Leyte islands	Mindanao Faunal Region
SVL (m)	63.4	55.9	55.9–58.8 (57.6 ± 1.5)	49.4	66.6–76.8 (71.8 ± 5.1)
SVL (f)	62.1	54.7	54.9–59.7 (57.1 ± 2.6)	52.6	75.2, 75.3
Axilla–groin distance	32.1, 33.0	26.7, 30.0	27.0–32.6 (30.4 ± 1.9)	25.1, 29.7	37.2–41.2 (39.6 ± 1.8)
Total length	—	95.8, —	111.9–117.3 (114.6 ± 3.8)	—	125.3–141.2 (135.2 ± 8.6)
Midbody width	8.5, 9.9	6.4, 6.7	5.4–6.7 (6.0 ± 0.5)	6.3, 7.3	7.7–9.1 (8.2 ± 0.6)
Head length	11.8, 11.7	10.4, 10.4	9.2–10.2 (9.7 ± 0.3)	9.3, 9.6	11.4–13.6 (12.6 ± 0.9)
Head length/SVL	19, 19	19, 19	16–18 (17 ± 1)	18, 19	17–18 (17 ± 0)
Head width	10.1, 7.4	7.8, 8.5	7.5–8.6 (8.0 ± 0.3)	7.7, 7.9	9.3–11.2 (10.6 ± 0.9)
Head width/SVL	16, 15	14, 15	13–15 (14 ± 1)	15, 16	14–15 (15 ± 0)
Snout length	7.5, 7.2	5.8, 6.0	5.4–6.0 (5.8 ± 0.2)	5.4, 5.7	6.7–7.5 (7.2 ± 0.4)
Snout length/HL	64, 62	55, 58	57–65 (60 ± 3)	57, 59	54–60 (58 ± 3)

[1]Two specimens available, adult male holotype precedes adult female paratype.

TABLE 2. Summary of qualitative diagnostic characters (present, absent) and meristic data (scale counts) in members of the *Pseudogekko compresicorpus* Complex *sensu* Siler *et al.* (2014b). In cases of scale count variation within species, numbers of individuals showing specific counts are given in parentheses.

	isapa **sp. nov.** (1 m, 1 f)	*chavacano* (1 m, 1 f)	*compresicorpus* (3 m, 4 f)	*ditoy* (1 m, 1 f)	*pungkaypinit* (4 m, 2 f)
Finger-III scansors	13 (2)	15 (1) 16 (1)	15 (4) 16 (2) 17 (1)	14 (1) 15 (1)	15 (3) 16 (1) 17 (2)
Toe-IV scansors	17 (2)	17 (1) 20 (1)	18 (5) 19 (2)	16 (1) 17 (1)	17 (1) 18 (2) 19 (2) 21 (1)
Supralabials	20 (1) 21 (1)	15 (1) 16 (1)	16 (1) 17 (1) 18 (3) 19 (1) 20 (1)	17 (1) 20 (1)	16 (1) 18 (2) 19 (2) 20 (1)
Infralabials	17 (1) 19 (1)	16 (1) 17 (1)	13 (1) 15 (2) 16 (4)	16 (1) 17 (1)	17 (4) 18 (1) 19 (1)
Circumorbitals	50, 54	46, 46	39–45	40, 43	50–55
Paravertebrals	240, 246	195, 197	226–234	180, 185	265–280
Ventrals	135, 141	122, 123	127–130	111, 118	125–155
Enlarged preloacals	15	16	10–14	18	17–20
Femoral pores	–	–	–	–	–
Dominant body coloration	Brownish tan	Light brown	Dark brown to tan	Light brown	Grayish brown
Conspicuous head spotting	+	+, dense, neon green	+, dense, neon green	–	–
Conspicuous dorsolateral spotting	–	+, neon green	+, faint, neon green	–	–
Conspicuous limb spotting	–	+, dense, neon green	+, faint, neon green	–	–
Tail banding	Unknown	+	–	–	–
Body striping	–	–	–	–	+, lateral body surface
Interorbital banding	+	–	–	–	–
Iris ring coloration	Unknown	neon yellow	+, light blue	–	–

From the remaining members of the *P. compresicorpus* Complex, *P. isapa* **sp. nov.** can be distinguished from *P. pungkaypinit* by having a smaller body size (SVL 62.1–63.4 mm *versus* 66.6–76.8 mm), smaller axilla–groin distance (32.1–33.0 mm *versus* 37.2–41.2), longer relative snout length (62–64% head length *versus* 54–60%), fewer Finger-III scansors (13 *versus* 15–17), fewer paravertebrals (240–246 *versus* 265–280), fewer enlarged pore-bearing precloacals (15 *versus* 17–20), and the absence (*versus* presence) of body striping; and from *P. chavacano* and *P. ditoy* by having a larger body size (SVL 62.1–63.4 mm *versus* 54.7–55.9 [*P. chavacano*] or 49.4–52.6 [*P. ditoy*]), larger axilla–groin distance (32.1–33.0 mm *versus* 26.7–30.0 [*P. chavacano*] or 25.1–29.7 [*P. ditoy*]), longer relative snout length (62–64% head length *versus* 55–58% [*P. chavacano*] or 57–59% [*P. ditoy*]), fewer Finger-III scansors (13 *versus* 15 or 16 [*P. chavacano*] or 14 or 15 [*P. ditoy*]) and enlarged pore-bearing precloacals (15 *versus* 16 [*P. chavacano*] or 18 [*P. ditoy*]), and more circumorbitals (50–54 *versus* 46 [*P. chavacano*] or 40–43 [*P. ditoy*]), paravertebrals (240–246 *versus* 195–197 [*P. chavacano*] or 180–185 [*P. ditoy*]), and ventrals (135–141 *versus* 122 or 123 [*P. chavacano*] or 111–118 [*P. ditoy*]; Tables 1, 2).

Pseudogekko isapa **sp. nov.** can be distinguished from members of the *P. brevipes* Complex (*P. brevipes*, *P. atiorum*), by having a larger body size (SVL 62.1–63.4 mm *versus* 41.1–52.5 [*P. atiorum*] or 34.5–42.4 [*P. brevipes*]), more supralabials (20 or 21 *versus* 15–17 [*P. atiorum*] or 13 or 14 [*P. brevipes*]), infralabials (17–19 *versus* 12–15 [*P. atiorum*] or 14 or 15 [*P. brevipes*]), circumorbitals (50–54 *versus* 35–38 [*P. atiorum*] or 33–35 [*P. brevipes*]), and ventrals (135–141 *versus* 119–129 [*P. atiorum*] or 96–117 [*P. brevipes*]).

From *P. smaragdinus*, *P. isapa* **sp. nov.** can be distinguished by having fewer Finger-III scansors (13 *versus* 15–18) and lacking pore-bearing femorals (15 *versus* 32–41), more supralabials (20 or 21 *versus* 16–19), circumorbitals (50–54 *versus* 33–35), and ventrals scales (135–141 *versus* 124–130), a tendency towards having fewer Toe-IV scansors (17 *versus* 16–22), a tendancy towards having more infralabials (17 or 19 *versus* 14–17), and by the presence of brownish tan (*versus* yellow to orange [undisturbed] or neon green [disturbed]) body coloration, and absence (*versus* presence) of enlarged femoral pore-bearing scales in males.

Description of holotype. Adult male, well preserved; small incision in the sternal region (portion of liver removed for genetic a sample). Body moderately large, elongate, slender; limbs well developed, moderately slender; tail autotomized, absent; margins of limbs smooth, cutaneous flaps or dermal folds absent.

Head size moderate, differentiated from neck, characterized by only slightly hypertrophied temporal and adductor musculature; snout broadly rounded in dorsal view and sharply rounded in lateral view; head width 118.8% midbody width, 85.6% head length; head length 19.0% SVL; snout length 74.2% head width, 63.6% head length; dorsal surfaces of head relatively homogeneous, with slightly to moderately pronounced concave postnasal, internasal, prefrontal, and interorbital concavities; auricular opening small, teardrop-shaped, beneath temporal swellings on either side of head; tympanum deeply sunken; orbit large; eye large, pupil vertical, margin wavy; limbs and digits relatively short; thighs moderately thicker compared to brachium; tibia length 8.2% SVL, 53.1% femur length.

Rostral size moderately large, margin oval in anterodorsal view, nearly as broad as high, sutured anterolaterally with anteriormost enlarged supralabials, projecting onto dorsal surface of head to point in line anteriormost edge of nasal; nasal surrounded by first labial, rostral, one enlarged postnasal, and two enlarged supranasals; medial supranasals separated by three moderately enlarged median scales; enlarged supranasals larger than postnasals, anteriormost supranasal largest.

Differentiated supralabials bordered dorsally by one row of slightly enlarged snout scales; differentiated infralabials bordered ventrally by undifferentiated scales or one row of slightly enlarged scales around the lower jaw; mentals and postrictals undifferentiated; gulars small, round, nonimbricate, juxtaposed; dorsal cephalic scales fairly homogeneous in size, shape, disposition, and distribution; cephalic scalation slightly convex, round to oval scales; posterior head scales granular, slightly raised into flat, plateaued dorsal surfaces.

Axilla–groin distance 50.6% SVL; dorsal body scales round, slightly raised into flat, dorsal plateaued, juxtaposed, relatively homogeneous in size; each dorsal scale surrounded by 4–6 interstitial granules, many forming a "Star of David" pattern around dorsal scale (Siler *et al.* 2014b: Fig. 5); dorsals gradually transition to imbricate ventrals along lateral body surface; scales on dorsal surfaces of limbs more imbricate than dorsals; scales on dorsal surfaces of hands and feet similar to dorsal limb scales, heavily imbricate; ventral body scales flat, cycloid, strongly imbricate, much larger than lateral or dorsal body scales, relatively homogeneous in size.

Enlarged pore-bearing scales in continuous precloacal series, arranged in a widely obtuse, "V"-formation (Fig. 2); patch of slightly enlarged scales posterior to precloacal series, roughly 6 or 7 scale rows in width, 3 or 4 scale rows in length, forming an oval patch just posterior to precloacal series (Fig. 2).

Digits moderately expanded and covered on palmar and plantar surfaces by bowed, unnotched, undivided scansors (Fig. 2); digits with minute vestiges of interdigital webbing on hands, moderate interdigital webbing on feet; subdigital scansors of fingers (left/right) I (10,9), II (11,11), III (13,13), IV (18,17), V (11,11); subdigital scansors of toes (left/right) I (10,9), II (12,11), III (16,17), IV (17,17), V (11,11); subdigital scansors of hands and feet bordered proximally (on palmar and plantar surfaces) by 1–3 slightly enlarged scales that form a near-continuous series with enlarged scansors; all digits clawed, but first (inner) claw greatly reduced; remaining terminal claw-bearing phalanges compressed, with moderately sized recurved claws.

Coloration of holotype in preservative. Background dorsal trunk coloration light brownish tan with intermittent to dense small dark brown speckles, continuing down to base of tail; dorsal region of head with similar color pattern, except for pronounced dark brown area above orbits; dorsal and lateral regions of limbs with same color pattern as trunk; supralabials and infralabials with similar pattern as head, but dark brown spots more diffuse; ventral side of

trunk with same background coloration, dark brown speckling pattern significantly reduced; ventral side of head with sparse dark brown speckling only; ventral surfaces of the limbs, and palms of hands and feet lighter cream colored with medium to dark brown speckles scattered sparsely throughout; ventral surfaces of digits darker tan to grey with irregular, sparse dark brown speckles; skin between scansors dark brown. Coloration in life unrecorded.

Measurements and scale counts of holotype in mm. SVL 63.4; axilla–groin distance 32.1; total length N/A; tail length N/A; head length 11.8; head width 10.1; head depth 7.0; eye diameter 3.9; snout length 7.5; eye–nares distance 5.9; internarial distance 2.6; interorbital distance 7.0; midbody width 8.5; femur length 9.8; tibia length 5.2; Toe-I length 2.3; Toe-IV length 4.1; tail width 5.3; tail depth 4.7; supralabials 20; infralabials 19; circumorbitals 50; paravertebral scales 240; ventral scales 135; Finger-III scansors 13; Toe-IV scansors 17.

Distribution, ecology and natural history. *Pseudogekko isapa* **sp. nov.** is known from the islands of Tablas and Sibuyan in the Romblon Island Group (Fig. 1). This species also may occur on Romblon Island itself, and eventually may be found on several of the smaller islands scattered across the province, such as Banton and Simara islands just off of the north coast of Tablas Island. Besides *P. atiorum*, *P. isapa* **sp. nov.** is the only other species outside of the Luzon and Mindanao PAICs; all other species are distributed across the northern, eastern, and southern islands (Siler *et al.* 2014a,b; Davis *et al.* 2015a). Like most members of the genus, *P. isapa* **sp. nov.** appears to be primarily a forest obligate species; the holotype was collected within high quality secondary forest in Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park on Sibuyan Island. This species' poor representation in museum collections globally is a testament to the secretive nature of these species in their native habitat (Siler *et al.* 2014a,b). Due to the absence of data allowing for confirmation of potential declines in population size as a result of habitat destruction, and the lack of available information about the species' natural history, we do not find that it qualifies for formal threatened status under IUCN criteria (IUCN 2015). Therefore, we recommend that the species be considered Data Deficient at the current time, but strongly recommend that immediate and comprehensive survey efforts be made to study the health of wild populations on islands throughout the Romblon Island Group (Fig. 1). With at least a very large portion of its range dominated by Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park, the majority of its hypothesized distribution is very well protected.

Etymology. We derive the new species epithet from the Tagalog (Filipino) phrase *isa pa*, meaning "another" or "one more" in reference to our surprise at the discovery of yet another distinctive new species of *Pseudogekko* immediately following our review of the genus (Siler *et al.* 2014a), including what we thought was a comprehensive review of the *P. compresicorpus* (Siler *et al.* 2014b) and *P. brevipes* complexes (Davis *et al.* 2015a). Suggested common name: Romblon Province False Gecko.

TABLE 3. Summary of univariate morphological variation in measurements of *Pseudogekko isapa* (two specimens available; adult male holotype precedes adult female paratype).All measurements are in mm.

	isapa **sp. nov.** (1 m, 1 f)
SVL	63.4, 62.1
Axilla–groin distance	32.1, 33.0
Total length	–
Midbody width	8.5, 9.9
Head length	11.8, 11.7
Head width	10.1, 9.4
Head height	7.0, 7.2
Snout length	7.5, 7.2
Eye diameter	3.9, 4.0
Eye–nares distance	5.9, 6.0
Internarial distance	2.6, 2.4
Interorbital distance	7.0, 6.7
Femur length	9.8, 10.1
Tibia length	5.2, 5.5

Discussion

Although only two vouchered, adult specimens document *Pseudogekko isapa* **sp. nov.** in museum collections, we are confident in making the current taxonomic designation on account of the highly distinctive external morphology of these Romblon Island Group populations. This action is bolstered by biogeographic information (lineage isolation on an ancient oceanic island group). Geologic evidence suggests that Sibuyan Island has remained isolated (surrounded by deep water) through Pleistocene climatic oscillations that resulted in the formation of enlarged aggregate island complexes in other parts of the archipelago; this island group was never connected to any other landmasses (Voris 2000; Clark & Mix 2000; Brown & Diesmos 2002, 2009; Hall 2002; Yumul *et al.* 2003; Dimalanta & Yumul 2004; Thomas *et al.* 2009). In contrast, Tablas and Romblon islands became conjoined as a single aggregate island as many as 10 times during the mid- to late- Pleistocene (Inger 1954; Rohling *et al.* 1998; Voris 2000; Brown & Diesmos 2009). Interestingly, recent studies have provided evidence of historical associations between components of the eastern and central Philippine islands and the Palawan microcontinental block (Zamoros & Matsuoka 2004; Zamoros *et al.* 2008). In fact, the northwest peninsula of Panay Island (Buruanga Peninsula: now part of the central Philippine islands), Carabao Island, southwest Mindoro Island and the Romblon Island Group are now believed to have been part of the North Palawan geologic terrane, which paleomigrated with the Palawan microcontinental block following its separation from Asia (Zamoros & Matsuoka 2004; Zamoros *et al.* 2008). Regardless of historical or recent connectivity, few would argue against the isolated nature of the Romblon Island Group, particularly considering this island group harbors numerous other endemic species of amphibians and reptiles (e.g., *Platymantis lawtoni* Brown & Alcala, *P. levigatus* Brown & Alcala, *Gekko romblon* Brown & Alcala, *G. coi* Brown, Siler, Oliveros, Diesmos & Alcala, *Brachymeles dalawangdaliri* Davis, Geheber, Watters, Penrod, Feller, Ashford, Kouri, Nguyen, Shauberger, Sheatsley, Winfrey, Wong, Sanguila, Brown & Siler; Brown *et al.* 2011; Siler *et al.* 2012; Davis *et al.* 2016). The presence of additional species of endemic vertebrates in the Romblon Island Group underscores the importance of this small island assemblage as a center of biological endemism (Goodman *et al.* 1995; Rickart *et al.* 2005; Esselstyn & Goodman 2010).

As predicted in recent studies on this rarely encountered gekkonid genus (Siler *et al*. 2014a,b; Davis *et al.* 2015a), additional survey efforts to study poorly sampled populations may allow for more appropriate evaluations of species diversity across the archipelago. Many other regions of the Philippines still have genetically divergent lineages of false geckos, particularly *P. compresicorpus* and *P. pungkaypinit* (Siler *et al.* 2014b). Although no studies have specifically addressed conservation status of forest-obligate versus habitat generalist taxa in the Philippines, it remains possible that species with specific microhabitat requirements for forested areas may be disproportionately at risk due to extensive habitat destruction and modification that continues to advance throughout the archipelago (Liu *et al.* 1993; Lasco *et al.* 2001; Stenberg & Siriwardana 2008; Polidoro *et al.* 2010; Suarez & Sajise 2010; Siler *et al.* 2014a).

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APPENDIX 1. Additional material examined.

Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of specimens examined. All specimens examined are from the Philippines. Several sample sizes are greater than those observed in the description due to the examination of sub-adult specimens which were excluded from morphometric analyses. Museum abbreviations follow Sabaj Perez (2014).

Lepidodactylus labialis Peters (10). MINDANAO ISLAND: AGUSAN DEL NORTE PROVINCE: *Municipality of Cabadbaran* (CAS 133317, Neotype 133318, 133329, 133396, 133687, 133790); DAVAO DEL SUR PROVINCE: *Municipality of Malalag* (CAS 124813, 139714–139716).

Pseudogekko atiorum (16). NEGROS ISLAND: NEGROS OCCIDENTAL PROVINCE: *Municipality of Cauayan* (CAS-SUR 19372 [paratype], 21122 [paratype]); NEGROS ORIENTAL PROVINCE: *Municipality of Sibulan* (CAS 128956 [paratype], 128959 [paratype], 128963 [paratype], 128971 [paratype]); *Municipality of Valencia* (CAS 134292 [paratype], KU 302818 [holotype], 327770 [paratype], TNHC 62478 [paratype]); *Municipality of Pamplona* (CAS 138097 [paratype], 145793 [paratype], 147491 [parartype]); *Municipality of Siatan* (CAS 134269 [paratype], CAS-SUR 26778 [paratype]); SIQUIJOR PROVINCE: *Municipality of San Juan* (CAS 145710 [paratype]).

Pseudogekko brevipes (7). SAMAR ISLAND (SMF 8988 [holotype]); BOHOL ISLAND: BOHOL PROVINCE: *Municipality of Sierra Bullones* (CAS 131855, 147527, 147528, CAS-SU 24596, 25108, 25111).

Pseudogekko chavacano (4). MINDANAO ISLAND: ZAMBOANGA CITY PROVINCE: *Municipality of Zamboanga City* (PNM 9812 [holotype], KU 314964 [paratype]); ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE PROVINCE: (CAS-SU 23548, 23549).

Pseudogekko compresicorpus (9). POLILLO ISLAND: QUEZON PROVINCE: *Municipality of Polillo* (KU 326242); LUZON ISLAND: CAGAYAN PROVINCE: *Municipality of Gonzaga* (KU 330058); LAGUNA PROVINCE: *Municipality of Los Baños*, *Barangay Batong Maiake* (KU 326434, 326436); *Barangay Bagong Silang* (KU 330735, 331657); QUEZON PROVINCE: *Municipality of Infanta*, *Barangay Magsaysay*, *Barangay Kipagringau* (KU 334017); MASBATE ISLAND: MASBATE PROVINCE: *Municipality of Mobo* (CAS 141560).

Pseudogekko ditoy (2). LEYTE ISLAND: LEYTE PROVINCE: *Municipality of Baybay*, *Barangay Gabas*, *Sitio Cienda* (KU 326438 [paratype], PNM 9811 [holotype]).

Pseudogekko pungkaypinit (6). BOHOL ISLAND: BOHOL PROVINCE: *Municipality of Sierra Bullones*, *Barrio Dusita* (CAS 131854 [paratype], CAS-SU 23655 [paratype]); *Raja Sikatuna Natural Park* (KU 324426 [paratype]); LEYTE ISLAND: LEYTE PROVINCE: *Municipality of Baybay* (KU 326243 [paratype]); *Barangay Guadalupe* (PNM 9810 [holotype]); MINDANAO ISLAND: MISAMIS ORIENTAL PROVINCE: *Municipality of Gingoog City*, *Barangay Lawaan*, *Sitio Kibuko*, *Mt. Lumot* (KU 334019 [paratype]).

Pseudogekko isapa **sp. nov.** (2). SIBUYAN ISLAND: ROMBLON PROVINCE: *Municipality of Magdiwang, Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park* (PNM 9816 [holotype]); TABLAS ISLAND: ROMBLON PROVINCE: *Municipality of San Agustin* (CAS 139713 [paratype]).

Pseudogekko smaragdinus (35). POLILLO ISLAND: QUEZON PROVINCE: *Municipality of Polillo* (KU 302819–302831, 303995–304002, 307638–307647, 326240, 326241, 331721); LUZON ISLAND: CAMARINES DEL NORTE PROVINCE: *Municipality of Labo*, *Barangay Tulay Na Lupa* (KU 313828).