

***Bavayia validiclavis* and *Bavayia septuiclavis*, two new species of gekkonid lizard from New Caledonia**

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ABSTRACT. Two new species of gekkonid lizard, *Bavayia validiclavis* and *Bavayia septuiclavis*, are here described from New Caledonia. Both are small but distinctively coloured, ground sheltering species. *Bavayia validiclavis* occurs on the north-east ranges of the main island, while *B. septuiclavis* occurs in the south of the main island below 22°09'S.

With the addition of the two new taxa described here a total of seven species of *Bavayia* (*B. cyclura*, *B. montana*, *B. crassicollis*, *B. validiclavis*, *B. septuiclavis*, *B. sauvagii*, *B. ornata*) is now known. A key to these species is provided.

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Roux (1913) in a monograph of the New Caledonian reptiles proposed the generic name *Bavayia* for the species *Peripia cyclura* Günther, 1872, and *Lepidodactylus sauvagii* Boulenger, 1883, described several new taxa (*Bavayia cyclura montana*, *Bavayia cyclura crassicollis* and *Bavayia sauvagii ornata*), and identified members of the genus as endemic to New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands.

I have examined specimens of *Bavayia* in the AM, QM, BM, NHMB, CAS and MNHP, all extant types, and during the course of extensive field work in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands have collected all of the species here recognised. In the field most species of *Bavayia* were readily distinguished by certain features of gross morphology (size, colour and pattern) and habit (whether the specimens were collected sheltering under ground debris or bark of trees by day). Subsequent examination of preserved material revealed several scalation characters (see key) which in combination with features of size and colouration allowed most specimens to be readily allocated to those taxa recognised by Roux (1913) (which I here treat as distinct species); however two taxa could not be allocated to any named species. In this paper I describe these species and diagnose the currently recognised taxa via a phenetic key.

Materials and Methods

Specimens of *Bavayia* were examined from the collections in the Australian Museum Sydney (AM), Queensland Museum (QM), Naturhistorisches Museum Basel (NHMB), British Museum of Natural History (BM), Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle Paris (MNHP), and California Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Measurements and scalation were assessed from whole alcoholic specimens. These features of morphology and the corresponding abbreviations are defined as follows.

Measurements: snout to vent length (SVL), distance from snout to margin of vent; tail length (TL), distance from tail tip to margin of vent; head length (HDL), distance from anterior margin of external ear opening to tip of snout; head width (HDW), distance across head at subocular upper labials; snout length (SNL), distance from anterior margin of eye to tip of snout.

Scalation (follows Kluge 1965): supralabials, scales bordering lip margin of upper jaw posterior of rostral to below centre of eye; rostral, enlarged scale at tip of snout; supranasal, enlarged scale bordering nostril and contacting rostral anteriorly; postnasal, scales bordering nostril and contacting supranasal