

WWF-Greater Mekong

MYSTERIOUS MEKONG NEW SPECIES DISCOVERIES 2012-2013

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

Produced by Christian Thompson (the green room), Maggie Kellogg, Thomas Gray and Sarah Bladen (WWF)

Published in 2014 by WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund).

© Text 2014 WWF All rights reserved

Front cover The Cambodian Tailorbird *(Orthotomus chaktomuk)*, a new bird species discovered in 2013 © James Eaton / Birdtour Asia.



A tributary of the Mekong River flows through unbroken and highly biodiverse rainforests of the Greater Mekong region, Cambodia.

Cambodia China	13 116
(Guangxi / Yunnan)	
Laos	32
Myanmar	26
Thailand	117
Vietnam	99

Note: The sum of the above figures does not equal the total number of new species discovered in 2012 and 2013, as some species have a distribution spanning more than one country.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An extraordinary 367 new species were discovered in the Greater Mekong in 2012 and 2013. Among the species newly described by scientists are 290 plants, 24 fish, 21 amphibians, 28 reptiles, 1 bird and 3 mammals [see Appendix].

The Greater Mekong region of Southeast Asia, through which the Mekong River flows, consists of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southern China. The region is home to some of the planet's most

charismatic and endangered wild species, including the tiger, Asian elephant, Irrawaddy dolphin, saola, and Mekong giant catfish—and between 1997 and 2011 an incredible 1,710 new organisms were described¹ by science in these landscapes.^{1,2,3,4,5}

Adding to the fantastic bestiary of creatures living in the Greater Mekong are new characters such as the Cambodian Tailorbird, Laotian giant flying squirrel, 'hunch-bat of Vietnam', an iridescent-coloured rainbow lizard, a fish who is ahead of the reproduction game, the 'Zorro'-masked water snake, a salmon-coloured orchid and a primitive white-headed viper. A skydiving gecko, giant flying frog, "fishzilla" (walking snakehead fish), brightly-coloured bronzeback snake, pufferfish and blind huntsman spider further add to the newly discovered assemblage.

These discoveries, painstakingly identified and recorded by the world's scientists and compiled here by WWF-Greater Mekong, demonstrate that the region is the frontline for scientific exploration. But they also remind us of what we stand to lose if regional development is not sustainable. The recent extinction of the rhino in the region⁶ and the ongoing plight of the tiger, whose numbers in the region may be as low as 250 individuals⁷, are poignant reminders of this. In addition, the devastating illicit trade in wildlife is now worth at least 16 billion US dollars annually.⁸

WWF seeks a world that values, accounts for, and safeguards natural capital as vital to human well-being and economic prosperity. Our focus is on the world's richest and most diverse natural capital including tropical forests and river basins. They underpin well-being and prosperity across entire regions, and yet, global markets value them more dead than alive. Today the region's forests are being cleared on an industrial scale, mainly for land to produce commodities we all use. According to a recent WWF report, *Ecosystems in the Greater Mekong: past trends, current status, possible futures*, between 1973-2009 the Greater Mekong countries lost 42.4 million hectares of forest, 30 per cent of forest cover.⁹

Our dynamic and innovative solutions-oriented approach to conservation sees us working with global networks of scientists, policymakers, businesses, financial institutions, and communities to help turn this around. Dwindling forests generate shortterm profits, but economists estimate that their true value to the global economy – if managed sustainably – could be in the order of trillions of dollars each year.

Today the Greater Mekong region forms part of one of the five most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world.¹⁰ Rapid unsustainable development, including poorly planned infrastructure, uncontrolled and non-transparent extractive activities, and agricultural expansion, as well as the rampant wildlife trade, are profoundly degrading the health of the region's ecosystems—and consequently, the well-being of the millions of people who directly depend on natural resources. Warmer temperatures, and more extreme floods, droughts, and storms as a result of climate change, only exacerbate these pressures.

Thorough and consistent management of ecosystems across the Greater Mekong region will help nations adequately address complex, challenging, and regional-scale issues like habitat loss and fragmentation, unsustainable natural resource use, poaching, and climate change.

¹ Refers to the official process by which a species is described in the peer-reviewed scientific literature once discovered and therefore formally determined as 'new'.





Bulbophyllum salmoneum, a new orchid species

Colourful characters: New discoveries in focus

The tailor of Phnom Penh: A new citydwelling bird

Orthotomus chaktomuk (Cambodia)



In 2013, a new bird species was described by scientists hiding in plain sight in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh.¹¹

The Cambodian Tailorbird (Orthotomus chaktomuk), as the new species is called, is a small, light and dark grey bird, with an orange-red tuft on its head, about the size of a Eurasian Wren (Troglodytes troglodytes). The species is likely confined to dense shrub habitat in the floodplain of the Mekong river on the edge of the city. The dense shrub habitat allowed it to remain undetected for so long despite living on the outskirts of a major city. It is one of two bird species endemic to Cambodia, the other being the Cambodian Laughingthrush (Garrulax ferrarius).

The species was first spotted in 2009 during routine bird surveys for avian flu and has since been spotted in other locations around the city, including a construction site. The discovery of an un-described bird species in a busy capital city is obviously exceptionally uncommon!

Its specific name comes from a Khmer word that means four-faces, which describes where the bird is found: in the floodplain where the Bassac, Mekong, and Tonlé Sap rivers meet.

Tailorbirds are named for the meticulous way in which they construct their nests by weaving leaves together. Unfortunately, due to the small (and shrinking) size of the birds' habitat, the species is listed as "Near Threatened" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.



White-head Burmese viper

Azemiops kharini (Yunnan, Guangxi and Vietnam) Scientists recently discovered a new primitive viper species, from Tam Dao Mountain, Tam Dao Village, Vinh Phuc Province, Vietnam.¹²

The venomous species is thought to be a primitive viper species because it has an elliptically shaped, flattened head; enlarged head plates; smooth dorsal scales; folding front fangs; the absence of heat-sensing pits; and a coiled venom gland duct in adults.

The species can be found in dense bamboo and tree-fern groves interspersed with open, sun-lit zones, and usually inhabits deep leaf litter that accumulates near fallen trees. Its diet consists mostly of rodents that are associated with quick-flowing mountain streams. The genus is known to inhabit cooler mountainous areas at altitudes of up to 1000 m, as well as disturbed areas, including agricultural lands and secondary forests. The White-head Burmese viper is dispersed across a broader range than the Black-head Fea's Viper (*Azemiops fea*), with a distribution stretching from eastern China to northern Indochina.¹³ The two species of *Azemiops* are found a short distance from each other, and are apparently separated by the Red River Valley. *Azemiops fea* can be seen west of the Red River, and *Azemiops kharini* can be seen to the east of the Red River.





Azemiops kharini

TWENTY-EIGHT NEW REPTILES Have been discovered in The greater mekong

A new pufferfish

Tetraodon palustris (Thailand) A new freshwater pufferfish was encountered in 2013 by scientists in the Mekong Basin of Thailand.¹⁴

The yellow species with grey-green blotches was discovered as a result of a survey conducted by a determined group of scientists aiming to further knowledge of pufferfish.

An ichthyological survey was conducted from January 2011 to December 2012 in the Mekong basin in the northeastern region of Thailand as an attempt to supplement the small number of published scientific studies on freshwater pufferfishes in the genus Tetraodon from the Mekong Basin of Thailand. It was during this survey that the authors collected an unknown freshwater pufferfish of the genus Tetraodon from marshes and swamps. The shape and colour pattern of this new species differs from those of previously described Tetraodon from the Mekong basin.

The freshwater rivers of northeastern Thailand, from which this species was discovered, form part of one of the priority conservation landscapes of WWF-Greater Mekong. WWF projects in Thailand and adjacent Laos work with local communities to develop fish conservation zones. We hope these help protect the amazing fish diversity of the Mekong including giants such as Mekong Giant Catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*) as well as undiscovered species.

Pufferfish are among the more charismatic species of fish found in Earth's waters, with a defence mechanism that sees the fish inflate to ward off predators. Pufferfish are also believed to be the second-most poisonous vertebrates in the world, after the golden poison frog (*Phyllobates terribilis*), with certain internal organs highly toxic to most animals when eaten.

The new species joins 25 other known species of pufferfish from Southeast Asia and more than 850 known fish species from Greater Mekong.





© Chavalit Vidthayanon / Mekong River Commis

Tetraodon palustris

Laotian giant flying squirrel

Biswamoyopterus laoensis

(Laos)

As new mammal discoveries become increasingly rare in the animal kingdom, it is extraordinary that a new species of flying squirrel from the genus *Biswamoyopterus* was described in 2013 from Laos.¹⁵

The discovery is based on a single individual collected from a local bush meat market in Ban Thongnami, Pak Kading District, Bolikhamxai Province. Wildlife trade, driven by both local consumption and the global market for luxury wildlife products, is one of the biggest threats to biodiversity across the Mekong region. WWF is thus working, in all our priority landscapes and protected areas, to ensure government enforcement agencies have the motivation and capacity to effectively crack down on illegal wildlife trade.

This arboreal species with red and white fur is the second member of the genus *Biswamoyopterus* to be discovered by scientists (the other being *Biswamoyopterus biswasi* from Arunachal Pradesh, northeast India). Over 1,000km separate the two very similar species, with the new species residing in an area of central Laos characterised by extensive limestone karst formations. This habitat is also home to other unique and rare endemic rodents, including the Laotian rock rat, known locally as Kha-nyou (*Laonastes aenigmamus*), and the Lao limestone rat (*Saxatilomys paulinae*).¹⁶

The species is among three new mammals discovered in 2012 and 2013 in the Greater Mekong.

+ 3 THREE NEW MAMMALS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED

IN THE GREATER MEKONG



Biswamoyopterus laoensis

The 'hunch-bat of Vietnam'

Hipposideros griffini (Vietnam)



Hipposideros griffini

Hipposideros griffini, discovered in 2012, is unlikely to win a beauty contest anytime soon. With an appearance to rival the lead character of Victor Hugo's 1831 literary classic *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* (a.k.a. *Notre-Dame de Paris*), mother nature certainly did not grant this species with a very charming appearance.¹⁷ However, what it lacks in beauty, it makes up for in function: its very peculiar nose may assist in echolocation, the sonar-like ability used by bats to help them navigate.

This new member of the bat community joins more than 70 other species within the genus *Hipposideros* in the world today. It was found at 248m above sea level in Cat Ba National Park on Cat Ba Island in Ha Long Bay in northern Vietnam, as well as in Chu Mom Ray National Park, situated on the mainland more than 1,000km (600 miles) to the south. It was located in disturbed and primary forests.

Cat Ba Island has been the site of other extraordinary new species discoveries in recent years, including a rare leopard gecko (*Goniurosaurus catbaensis*) in 2008.¹⁸ This gecko, which has large, cat-like eyes and distinctive stripes along the length of its body, is found only in the moist tropical forests of northern Vietnam's Cat Ba National Park.

Griffin's leaf-nosed bat, as this species is more commonly known, was first seen in 2008, but it was not until later, after catching some of the bats, that a team of researchers led by Dr Vu Dinh Thong from the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Hanoi, found out it was actually a new species that had never before been documented.

The new bat species was named in honour of the late Donald Redfield Griffin (1915–2003) of Rockefeller University (New York). He was a pioneer in the field of bat echolocation research.

Another new bat species, *Murina* balaensis, was discovered in 2013 in Thailand.¹⁹

A rainbow lizard

Lygosoma veunsaiensis (Cambodia) This species was discovered in the remote rainforest of Veun Sai-Siem Pang Conservation Area in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia, by a Fauna and Flora International herpetologist, Neang Thy. *Lygosoma veunsaiensis* is a new type of skink with several distinct characteristics including its iridescent skin, which is a result of the way its scales refract sunlight to create a rainbow-like shimmer.²⁰ It is also unusually long, a trait that is amplified by its proportionally lengthy tail and short legs (less than half a centimetre long).²¹

It was a very fortunate discovery, as Neang Thy explained: "These creatures are difficult to find because they spend so much of their life hidden underground. Some similar species are known from only a few individuals. We were very lucky to find this one."²²

This species was named for the region in which it was found, the Veun Sai-Siem Pang Conservation Area (VSSPCA), as a tribute and to underscore the area's importance for the conservation of Cambodia's threatened biodiversity.²³

Indeed, the need to respond to such threats to biodiversity are becoming all the more urgent as Cambodia is proving to be a hotbed for new species discoveries. Lack of research in recent decades could explain this sudden rush of new findings, according to Peter Geissler from Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig in Germany, one of the authors who described the skink. "Three decades of conflict effectively prevented herpetological investigations until the late 1990s," he said, "and now we have a chance to uncover many of the things that have previously been missed, especially new reptiles."24



Lygosoma veunsaiensis

Giant, bright green, flying frog Rhacophorus helenae

(Vietnam)

Helen's Flying Frog, *Rhacophorus helenae*, a huge, green, "flying" frog was discovered less than 100km from Ho Chi Minh City, an urban centre with over 9 million people.^{25,26}

Helen's Flying Frog can grow to almost 10cm in length and belongs to the group of frogs that have the greatest ability to glide. With large feet that are fully webbed and flaps of webbing on the outside of their arms, they can glide sometimes 50 feet (15 metres) gracefully down from trees to breed in forest pools, and even from tree to tree.²⁷

They likely spend most of their time out of human sight in the forest canopy, which would explain why this new species with such a fantastic appearance has been completely unknown to science until now. To date, Helen's Flying Frog is still only known from two patches of lowland forest surrounded by agricultural land in Binh Thuan and Dong Nai provinces in southern Vietnam. Lowland forests are among the most threatened habitats in the world, largely because they are so accessible (i.e. no mountains for people to scale in order to get there).

Despite its recent scientific discovery, Helen's Flying Frog is unfortunately already under great threat from ongoing habitat loss and degradation.²⁸ Scientists are warning that the frog could merit listing as a threatened species under IUCN Red List criteria.

Dr Jodi Rowley had the honour of naming the new species *Rhacophorus helenae* after her mother.²⁹

TWENTY-ONE New Amphibians Have been discovered in The greater mekong

+ 21



Rhacophorus helenae



Rhacophorus helenae

A fish who's ahead in the reproduction game

> Phallostethus cuulong (Vietnam)

This new 'penis head' fish (*Phallostethus cuulong*), is certainly among the more bizarre discoveries to surface in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam.^{30,31}

The fish is a newcomer to the Phallostethidae family of fish, whose thin, nearly transparent bodies are characterized by the unusual placement of their sex organs.³²

The male fish's priapium (the technical name for its sex organ) is a complex, muscular organ located underneath the fish's chin. In addition to including the urogenital opening and the anus, the priapium is also equipped with a bony rod (toxactinium) and a saw-like hook (ctenactinium), which is used to clutch on to the female during mating. The female fish's genitals are also located at her throat, and unlike most fish, fertilization for the *Phallostethus cuulong* takes place

inside the female's body. The hook probably increases the success of fertilization, researchers say.³³

Researchers from Can Tho University in Vietnam and zoologist Koichi Shibukawa of the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation in Tokyo, Japan collected and studied nine specimens of this new fish species, including six males and three females.³⁴ They were found in the slow-flowing shallow waters around banks of canals and rivers in Soc Trang and Tra Vinh Provinces, Vietnam.³⁵



Phallostethus cuulong (male, top; female, bottom)





'Zorro'-masked water snake

Homalopsis mereljcoxi (Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam) A new species of masked water snake was discovered in Ban Badan Reservoir, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand.³⁶

Sporting a Zorro-like mask across their wide heads, water snakes of the genus *Homalopsis* exceed 1.3m and are marked by a pattern of alternating brown and cream bands along the length of their bodies. These snakes are nocturnal ambush predators whose diet consists mostly of small fish. Members of the *Homalopsis* genus are viviparous^{II} and females give birth to relatively large young.

Snakes from this genus are relatively abundant in the low elevation wetlands of Southeast Asia. At Tonle Sap in Cambodia, they are harvested in large numbers for their skin and as a source of protein. Despite its newness to science, *Homalopsis mereljcoxi* is the most exploited species of those within the genus in the Greater Mekong region. Given their larger size and distinct markings, they are seen as more desirable, particularly by the novelty leather industry.³⁷

Only one species of the *Homalopsis* genus was recognised for the majority of the last 250 years (Linnaeus' original description of *Coluber buccatus* in 1758) until 2006 when another species was identified. Despite the distribution, abundance, and excessive exploitation of these snakes, the genus and species have remained poorly studied.

The new species was identified by scientist John C. Murphy and colleagues during their examination of 163 specimens of the genus *Homalopsis*. It is named in honour of Merel "Jack" Cox, for his years of dedication to the study of the snakes of Thailand.

John C. Murpl



^{II} Giving birth to live young.



The new snake species *Homalopsis mereljcoxi* is ironically already the most exploited *Homalopsis* species and is exploited in the snake harvest at Tonle Sap, in Cambodia.

Salmon orchid

Bulbophyllum salmoneum (Laos and Vietnam)



Bulbophyllum salmoneum



TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY New Plants have been discovered In the greater mekong Such is the influence of the Mekong River basin in the makeup of the region that even the plants are beginning to resemble fish! This new salmon orchid species was found in the environs of Mo village in Quang Binh province, Minh Hoa district, Thuong Hoa municipality, Vietnam.³⁸

The salmon orchid, with 3cm-long green sepals, was described by Leonid V. Averyanov and J.J. Vermeulen. It is found 400-800 metres above sea level in the Annamite Mountains.

This isolated mountain range that links Laos and Vietnam is the location of the largest and most ambitious project in the history of WWF's involvement in the Greater Mekong region. The Carbon & Biodiversity Project (CarBi)^{III} aims to halt deforestation, through forest protection and sustainable use of forest resources, and preserve the Annamite landscape's unique species diversity. CarBi covers an expanse of more than 200,000 ha of forest, including one of the largest continuous natural forest areas in continental Asia. This area of remarkably high biodiversity and unique endemism – including the enigmatic saola *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis* – is also unfortunately one where deforestation and illegal logging are rife.

The partnerships through which this project is facilitated will also help to reduce the many threats the region is facing, including illegal or unsustainable logging, unsustainable agriculture, and the illegal timber trade, by training local administration and forestry officials and promoting sustainable forest management. While it is important for species and forest conservation, the project will also enhance the income of the area's culturally diverse people who depend on forests for their livelihoods.

Find out more: panda.org/greatermekong/carbi

^{III} The full title of the project is: Avoidance of deforestation and forest degradation in the border area of southern Laos and central Vietnam for the long-term preservation of carbon sinks and biodiversity (CarBi).

A zebra-striped lizard

Cyrtodactylus phuketensis (Thailand)



Cyrtodactylus phuketensis

This zebra-striped species is roughly 11.5cm long and looks 'other worldly'. The decorative gecko is currently known only from Khao Phra Thaeo Non-hunting Area, Phuket Island, southwestern Thailand.³⁹

Phuket Island is one of Thailand's most popular tourist destinations. Although most of the forested areas of the island have suffered much from human disturbance and have been replaced by settlements, tourism infrastructure, and agricultural plantations, some patches of primary and mature secondary forest remain, especially in the centre of the island, where two recently described, endemic reptile species were found. The snake fauna of the island benefitted from some dedicated surveys in the 1970s, but overall the lizard fauna has received little attention thus far.

In the Khao Phra Thaeo Non-hunting Area and its direct surroundings, a team of scientists collected a series of *Cyrtodactylus* species which showed obvious similarities to *C. macrotuberculatus*. However, after being thoroughly investigated, differences began to surface and although related, the new eyecatching finds were determined to be an entirely new species.

Blind huntsman spider

Sinopoda scurion (Laos)



Look, no eyes! Blind huntsman spider, Sinopoda scurion

Arachnologist Dr Peter Jäger of the Senckenberg Research Institute in Frankfurt, Germany, has discovered the first eyeless huntsman spider in the world.^{40,41}

With a leg span of only six centimetres and a body size of around twelve millimetres, the spider *Sinopoda scurion* does not number amongst the larger of the huntsman spiders, which include more than 1,100 species. However, it is the first of its kind in the world without any eyes.⁴²

"I found the spider in a cave in Laos, around 100 kilometres away from the famous Xe Bang Fai cave," reports Peter Jäger, head of the Senckenberg Research Institute's arachnology section. "We already knew of spiders of this genus from other caves, but they always had eyes and complete pigmentation. *Sinopoda scurion* is the first huntsman spider without eyes." The lack of eyes is attributable to living permanently without daylight.⁴³

The spiders are in good company: fish, scorpions and crabs adapted to caves have already been found in the caves of Laos. Because of the small-scale area in which the spider species can be found it is possible to study their adjustment to the cave as a dwelling - the number of eyes present and the visual faculty may possibly shed light on the time of settlement.⁴⁴ Jäger also pointed out that "the spiders can be used as indicators for the threat to their habitats. These are often endangered by tourism or the exploitation of the limestone rocks to make cement."

The eyeless huntsman spider was named after the Swiss company Scurion that makes headlamps for caves.⁴⁵ The headlamps by Scurion help scientists to illuminate the darkest corners of caves, and thus recognise hazards such as poisonous snakes and scorpions, but also discover very small organisms.⁴⁶

The eyeless huntsman is not the first significant "creepy crawly" to be found in Laotian caves. Other unusual arthropods include the Laotian huntsman spider *Heteropoda maxima* with a leg span of up to 11 inches (30cm), the whip scorpion *Typopeltis magnificus* with a span of 10 inches (26cm) and the predatory centipede *Thereuopoda longicornis* with a total span of almost one foot, three inches (about 40cm).



Skydiving gecko

Ptychozoon kaengkrachanense (Thailand) A new species of Parachute Gecko, *Ptychozoon kaengkrachanense* was discovered in the montane evergreen forest in Kaeng Krachan National Park, Phetchaburi Province, western Thailand.⁴⁷ By extending flaps of skin on its flanks and between its toes, the Kaeng Krachan Parachute Gecko is able to glide between the trees in its rainforest habitat.⁴⁸

Three dark markings in the shape of chevrons on its back and other features such as a unique tail distinguish the new species from all known *Ptychozoon* species.⁴⁹ *Ptychozoon kaengkrachanense* is the fifth species of *Ptychozoon* recorded from Thailand, along with *P. horsfieldii, P. kuhli, P. lionotum* and *P. trinotaterra*, but it is the only species of *Ptychozoon* endemic to the country.

Its rainforest home is also special. The species is the 68th reptile species recorded from Kaeng Krachan National Park, which was already known to house the richest herpetofauna of all protected areas of Thailand and it thus reinforces the exceptional value of the park in terms of biodiversity and its conservation.⁵⁰ On a larger scale, the environment in which the species was discovered falls within the Dawna-Tenasserim Landscape. This area spans more than 58,000km², and is one of the highest priority conservation areas for tigers globally, on a par with sites in India, and one of the most significant biodiversity areas in Southeast Asia.

 $Ptychozoon\ kaengkrachanense$

This vast wilderness comprises a continuous block of forest straddling western Thailand and eastern Myanmar. The region is also globally important for Asian elephant (Elephas maximus) conservation, and shelters one of the few remaining breeding populations of the endangered Siamese crocodile (Crocodylus siamensis). Among the many other notable species occurring here are: Asian tapir (Tapirus indicus), Asiatic black bear (Ursus thibetanus), sun bear (Helarctos malayanus), gaur (Bos gaurus), Rufous-necked hornbill (Aceros nipalensis) and wild water buffalo (Bubalus arnee).

"Fishzilla" Walking snakehead fish

Channa longistomata (Vietnam)



Channa longistomata

A new snakehead fish was discovered in Vietnam, Ha Nam province, Kim Bang district, Tam Chuc lake, Ba Sao town.⁵¹

Channa longistomata was named according to its specific characteristics, including a long mouth, distinct from that of the other 25 similar species. The outer edges of its fins are tinged red-pink or yellow, and its pectoral fins display 3-5 black bars.

Called a snakehead, as its head looks like that of a snake, the new species is predatory, subsisting on a diet of smaller fish and invertebrates. Certain other attributes of this species also seem more snake-like than fish-like: incredibly, this snakehead fish is able to breath atmospheric air and can even survive on land for up to four days, as long as it stays wet. Its movements on land may appear more cumbersome than a smoothly slithering snake, but this species can writhe and wriggle its way up to ¹/₄ mile on wet land between bodies of water.⁵² National Geographic has dubbed snakehead fish as "Fishzilla".⁵³

Each spawning-age female can release up to 15,000 eggs at once. Snakeheads can mate as often as five times a year. This means in just two years, a single female can release up to 150,000 eggs⁵⁴. The genus can grow to 1.2m maximum length and are important in aquaculture and commonly used in rice-fish farming. Snakeheads of various varieties are valued as food. In Vietnam, they are called ca loc, ca qua, or ca chuoi, and enjoyed in clay pot dishes and pickled preparations.⁵⁵

The new species can be found in provinces of the Da river basin (Dien Bien, Lai Chau, Son La and Hoa Binh) and in lakes near the regions of lime mountains of Ha Nam and Ninh Binh.

Brightly-coloured bronzeback

Dendrelaphis nigroserratus (Myanmar and Thailand)

This new snake species was found at Kaeng Krachan National Park in southern Thailand, incredibly while it was in the middle of consuming a Wallace's Flying Frog (*Rhacophorus nigropalmatus*).⁵⁶ This relatively large species of Dendrelaphis measures up to 156 cm and is distinguished by a thick black stripe behind the eye, which extends onto the neck in a sawtooth pattern of black, oblique bars.⁵⁷

Also known as the Sawtooth-necked Bronzeback, this snake can be found in hilly evergreen forest between 900 and 1,350 metres above sea level (i.e. lower montane forest). It has been recorded near forest streams and stands of bamboo, but is absent from deforested areas.⁵⁸ According to scientists, the new discovery underscores the notion that further exploration is needed in the hilly western parts of Thailand, one of the areas in which this species occurs, along with parts of southern Thailand and southern parts of neighbouring Myanmar.⁵⁹ Thailand has been accessible to foreign visitors for a long time. Consequently, many herpetologists have visited the country to explore and document its herpetofaunal richness. Nevertheless, new species are still being described, especially snakes. In general, snakes are notoriously hard to find due to their low densities and elusive habits, such that more undescribed species are expected to inhabit the country.

© Sjon Hau



The long hard road: Like most wildlife in the Greater Mekong, *Dendrelaphis nigroserratus*, from Thailand and Myanmar, is under threat from increasing habitat destruction.

OPPORTUNITIES: WWF IN MYANMAR

With three of the most pristine large rivers and some of the most extensive intact forest in the region, Myanmar is one of the most biologically diverse and ecologically productive nations on Earth.

Living resources vital to human well-being - forests, fisheries, freshwater ecosystems, fertile soils, coastal and marine ecosystems - the country's natural capital, are the foundation of Myanmar's long-term sustainable economic development. Myanmar has witnessed its neighbours over-exploit their natural capital, creating precariously fragmented ecosystems unable to support sustainable economic growth over the medium and long term.

But as Myanmar opens up politically and economically, it is experiencing many of the same pressures faced by the rest of the Greater Mekong, from deforestation to illegal wildlife trade, sand mining to hydropower.

The government and civil society organizations of Myanmar are now seeking partnerships and state-ofthe-art guidance on how to best manage their natural capital, preserving the country's globally important biodiversity for the near and long-term health and prosperity of the people of this vast and diverse nation.

In 2014, WWF established an office in the country, with the aim of supporting Myanmar's development ambitions with a focus on spatial planning and biodiversity conservation in parallel with ecosystem services protection and sustainable livelihoods.

Learn more: panda.org/greatermekong/myanmar





 $\label{eq:constraint} View of the \ Dawna-Tenasserim \ Landscape \ on \ the \ Myanmar-Thailand \ border.$

Giving green a chance: Conclusions & recommendations

Fostering sustainable green economies across the Greater Mekong could provide the solution to the region's development dilemma: how can sustainable economic growth and prosperity be achieved while ensuring environmental protection and human well-being?

Green economy approaches aim to understand and emphasise the interdependencies of human systems and natural systems. These approaches ask that we 'join the dots' between ecosystem integrity and resilience of human systems to understand the interrelationships of ecosystem quality, economic systems and conditions determining human well-being. Environmental capacity, from local systems to the biosphere, cannot be reduced to a productive capacity alone. Ecosystem integrity also determines the capacity of a place to provide for the people

that live there, enable livelihoods or support achievement of equitable development goals – and to adapt to increased human pressures while continuing to supply ecosystem services to social and economic systems.

As one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet, the Greater Mekong is home to numerous endangered and endemic species. The Mekong River Basin alone is the richest river basin in the world in terms of fish stocks, and livelihoods of people in the region are directly linked to the basin's productivity. The economic and social development of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) depends on the continued productivity of its interconnected ecological systems. This ecological productivity, and hence the prosperity of the GMS, depend upon intact, healthy and diverse natural ecosystems, which provide resilience to the increasingly evident impacts of climate change, while ensuring continued access to water, energy, food, export commodities, and livelihoods for over 70 million people. The challenge for the GMS is how to maintain or assure environmental capacity in the face of the rapid economic and social change being observed across the six countries in the region.

Each country in the GMS – and their respective economic structures – is different and so require solutions tailored to their national needs. Regionally however, it has been declared that well-maintained biodiversity and ecosystem services are essential to achieving regional and national development and social goals. GMS countries are undertaking a range of activities to improve natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. Cambodia, China (Yunnan and Guangxi), Laos, Myanmar and Thailand agreed to enter into a regional collaboration on the environment and established the Core Environment Program–Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (CEP-BCI) in 2008. Numerous other programs are also being implemented with support from various partners, contributing to a comprehensive approach to sustaining natural capital in the region.

Furthermore, in July 2011, the GMS Environment Ministers Meeting announced that their regional vision of a "poverty free and ecologically rich GMS" will be achieved through the development of "a green, inclusive and balanced economy, and as a first step in this transition we aim to maintain and enhance ecosystems and the services they provide." In the same year, at the 2011 GMS Summit, countries endorsed a new ten-year strategic framework that contains many core elements of a transition to a green economy; but there is still a need to create and enhance incentives for reducing footprint pressures on natural capital in the Greater Mekong through changing the top-down framework or enabling policy conditions for achieving conservation goals in each country.

According to the 2011 UNEP report "Towards a Green Economy", several enabling conditions can help facilitate the transition to a green economy. Key steps that need to be taken to create these enabling conditions include:

• Prioritizing government investment and spending in areas that stimulate the greening of economic sectors as opposed to depleting our natural capital

- Identifying and addressing environmental and social costs in addition to financial costs
- Investing in capacity building and training
- · Establishing and/or strengthening sound policy and regulatory frameworks
- Strengthening international or transboundary environmental governance

Sound regulatory frameworks implemented via harmonized policies and legislation across the GMS are critical to GMS countries adequately addressing complex, challenging, regional-scale issues like habitat loss and fragmentation, unsustainable natural resource use, and climate change. All of these factors combined inevitably result in the extinctions of the region's unique biodiversity, including many species yet to be discovered. Addressing all of these challenges requires stronger transboundary and regional collaboration because countries cannot solve these problems individually. Regional collaboration needs high levels of political support. It also needs to be formalised into a regional agreement, which is supported through an effective institutional framework and mechanism.

In addition, underpinning these regional efforts to encourage and maintain healthy ecosystems and sustainable populations of species, like those featured in this report, WWF aims to work closely with governments and key partners to:

- RESTORE focal species populations to ecosystems where they were once abundant
- RECOVER focal species populations where populations still exist
- RECONNECT habitat to ensure focal species populations increase

Recognising that investing in conservation of natural capital is unlikely to succeed without concurrent supporting realization of green economies in practice, WWF also supports governments and conservation partners by:

- · Developing community-based natural resource management and livelihoods
- Encouraging adoption of sustainable production, consumption and ecosystem stewardship standards in the private sector
- Empowering civil society in their role as educators and 'watchdogs' on social and environmental safeguards and environmental justice

Only by fostering increased sustainable forestry, alternative land uses and sustainable livelihoods at all levels (regional, national, provincial, and local) will further pressure on remaining populations of the region's unique species be reduced.

APPENDIX Greater Mekong new species 2012 and 2013.

Plants

SPECIES SPECIES Acronema crassifolium Aeginetia flava Amischotolype barbarossa Amischotolype divaricata Amischotolype welzeniana Amonum calcaratum Amonum aclacada Amomum calcicola Amomum celsum Amomum cetsum Amomum chryseum Amomum glabrifolium Amomum plicatum Amomum prionocarpum Amomum rubidum Amomum stephanocoleum Amomum stepnanocoleum Amomum tenellum Amorphophallus arcuspadix Amorphophallus bolikhamxayensis Amorphophallus crisyifolius Amorphophallus ferruginosus Amorphophallus ferruginosus Amorphophallus terrestris Amorphophalius terrestris Ancylostemon dimorphosepalus Annamocalamus kontumensis Ardisia rubricaulis Argostemma glabra Argostemma phyllocharis Arigosten clauiforma Arisaema claviforme Arisaema honbaense Arisaema hishuiense Arisaema lushuiense Aristolochia mulunensis Aspidistra coccigera Aspidistra jiewhoei Aspidistra jingxiensis Aspidistra phanluongii Aspidistra truongii Bauhinia hekouensis Bauhinia nakhonphanomensis Baaninia hakionphanon Begonia bella Begonia chongzuoensis Beilschmiedia turbinata Boesenbergia collinsii Boesenbergia kerrii Boesenbergia kingii Bosenbergia maxwellii Bolbitis lanceolata Briggsia damingshanensis Bulbophyllum salmoneum Calamus batoensis Calamus flavinervis Calamus phuocbinhensis Calamus phuoconnensis Calamus quangngaiensis Calanthe bingtaoi Calanthe leonidii Calanthe wenshanensis Camellia cattienensis Camellia dalatemesis Camellia dalatensis Camellia inusitata Camellia oconoriana Capparis daknongensis Carex paracheniana Carex pengii Caryodaphnopsis malipoensis Celastrus yuloensis Changnienia malipoensis Changnienia malipoensis Clematis peii Cochinchinochloa braiana Coelogyne phuhinrongklaensis Conchidium dickasonii Cordiglottis longipedicellata Coronotae malioconegic Cremastra malipoensis Curculigo fabrei Curcuna arracanensis Curcuna arracanensis Curcuma leonidii Dendrobium cobra Dendrocalamus cauhaiensis Dendrocalamus longiligulatus Dendrocalemus pimpka Dendrocalamus nianĥei Dendrocalamus taubacensis Dendrocalamus taybacensis Dendrocalamus velutinus Dendrokingstonia gardneri Derris glabra Derris pseudomarginata Deyeuxia gaoligongensis Diceratotheca bracteolata Diceratotheca bracteolata Dillenia tetrapetala Distichochlamys benenica Dracaena jayniana Dracaena kaweesakii Elatostema ablistipulum Elatostema androstachyum

SCIENTIST(S)

SCIENTIST(S) Huan C.Wang, X.M.Zhou & Y.H.Wang J.Parn. Duist. Duist. Duist. Duist. Lamxay & M.F.Newman Lamxay & N.S.Lý Lamxay & N.S.Lý Lamxay & M.F.Newman Lamxay & M.F.Newman A.Galloway, Ongsakul & Petra Schmidt A.Galloway Hett. & Claudel Hett, & Claudel W.H.Chen & Y.M.Shui H.N.Nguyen, N.H.Xia & V.T.Tran S.Z.Mao & C.M.Hu Joongku Lee, T.B.Tran & R.K.Choudhary Sridith Brugg., J.Ponert, Rybková & Vuong Luu, Tich, G.Tran & V.D.Nguyen G.W.Hu & H.Li Y.S.Huang & Yan Liu Aver. & Tillich Tillich & Škorničk. Yan Liu & C.R.Lin Vislobokov Aver. & Tillich T.Y.Tu & D.X.Zhang I.Y.IU& D.X.Znang Chatan Phutthai Yan Liu, S.M.Ku & C.I Peng Bing Liu & Y.Yang Mood & L.M.Prince Mood, L.M.Prince & Triboun Mood & L.M.Prince Mood & L.M. Prince Mood X. L.M. Prince & Triboun S.K.Wu & J.Y.Xiang L.Wu & B.Pan Aver. & J.J.Yenn. A.J.Hend. & N.Q.Dung A.J.Hend. & N.Q.Dung A.J.Hend. & N.Q.Dung J.J.Zhai, L.J.Chen & Z.J.Liu P.J.Cribb & D.A.Clayton J.W.Zhai, L.J.Chen & Z.J.Liu Bunvong, Chantar. & S.C.Keeley Orel Orel V.D.Luong, Ninh & Hakoda V.D.Luong, Ninn & Hakoda Orel, Curry & Luu Orel, Curry & Luu Sy, G.C.Tucker, Cornejo & Joongku Lee X.F.Jin & C.Z.Zheng Bing Liu & Y.Yang Y. Mu X.Y.Mu D.H.Peng, Z.J.Liu & J.W.Zhai L.Xie, W.J.Yang & L.Q.Li H.N.Nguyen & V.T.Tran Ngerns. & Tippayasri Ormerod Joongku Lee, T.B.Tran & R.K.Choudhary G.W.Hu Hul W.J.Kress & V.Gowda W.J.Kress & V.Gowda Škorničk, & Luu Ormerod N.H.Xia & V.T.Nguyen N.H.Xia & V.T.Nguyen H.N.Nguyen, N.H.Xia & V.T.Nguyen V.T.Nguyen & V.L.Le N.H.Xia, V.T.Nguyen & V.L.Le N.H.Xia, V.T.Nguyen & V.D.Vu Chaowasku Sirich. Sirich. Paszko J.R.I.Wood & Scotland J.R.I.Wood & Scotland Joongku Lee, T.B.Tran & R.K.Choudhary Q.B.Nguyen & Škorničk. Wilkin & Suksathan WiT.Wang & Suksathan W.T.Wang, A.K.Monro & Y.G.Wei

COUNTRY YEAR 2013 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) Thailand Thailand Cambodia / Myanmar / Thailand / Vietnam Myanmar / Thailand 2012 2012 2012 Laos 2012 Laos 2012 2012 2012 2012 Laos / Vietnam Laos Laos Laos Laos Laos 2012 2012 2012 Vietnam Laos Laos / Vietnam Laos Laos Laos 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 Laos 2012 Laos Cambodia / Thailand 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) 2012 2013 2013 2013 Vietnam China (Guangxi) Vietnam Thailand 2012 2013 Vietnam 2013 Vietnam 2012 China (Yunnan) 2012 2013 2012 2013 China (Guangxi) Vietnam Vietnam China (Guangxi) 2012 2012 Vietnan 2013 Vietnam 2013 China (Yunnan) 2013 2013 2012 2012 Thailand Thailand Thailand China (Guangxi) China (Yunnan) / Vietnam 2013 2013 Thailand 2013 Thailand 2013 China (Yunnan) / Myanmar / Thailand 2013 2013 2012 2012 2012 Myanmar / Thailand Laos China (Guangxi) /ietnan Vietnam 2013 2013 Vietnam 2013 Vietnam Vietnam 2013 2013 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) Vietnam China (Yunnan) Thailand 2012 2012 Vietnam 2012 Vietnam 2012 Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam China (Guangxi) China (Guangxi) China (Yunnan) 2012 2013 2013 2012 2013 2013 2012 China (Yunnan) 2013 China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) 2012 2013 2012 2012 Vietnam Thailand Myanmar 2013 Vietnam China (Yunnan) 2013 2013 Cambodia 2012 Myanmar 2012 2013 2012 2013 Vietnam China (Yunnan) Vietnam Vietnam 2013 2013 Vietnam 2012 Vietnam 2012 2013 2012 2012 2012 Vietnam Vietnam Thailand / Vietnam Thailand Chiland 2012 2013 China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) / Thailand 2012 2012 Vietnan Vietnam Vietnam Thailand Thailand China (Yunnan) China (Guangxi) 2012 2012 2012 2013 2012 2013

201

201

Plants

SPECIES

Elatostema angustibracteum Elatostema caudiculatum Elatostema cucullatonaviculare Elatostema davinense Elatosterna duxinense Elatosterna flexuosum Elatosterna fugongense Elatosterna glabribracteum Elatosterna heterocladum Elatostema heteroarammicum Elatostema laevicaule Elatostema longitepalum Elatostema lushuiheense Elatostema tusnunéense Elatostema neriifolium Elatostema oligophlebium Elatostema parvioides Elatostema robustipes Elatostema robustipes Elatostema sexcostatum Elettariopsis limiana Elettariopsis poonsakiana Elettariopsis ranongensis Epipactis dickasonii Evennokloa remuciaci Eremochloa renvoizei Eriocaulon chantaranothaii Eriocaulon chianamaiense Eriocaulon chiangmaiense Eriocaulon nautiliformoides Eriocaulon parnellii Eriocaulon phatamense Eriocaulon phuchongense Eriocaulon phuphanoides Erythranthe sinoalba Euphorbia maoershanensis Euphorbia maoershanensis Ferrocalamus fibrillosus Flacourtia turbinata Gastrodia albidoides Gentiana zhenxiongensis Gigantochloa multifloscula Globba sherwoodiana Greenea adangensis Greenea adangensis Greenea nontana Greenea vivularis Greenea vietnamensis Hedychium dichotomatum Hemiboea pseudomagnibracteata Hemiboea sinovietnamica Uirenelisi di nottractume corsic Himalaiella natmataungensis Himalaleila natmataungens Holcoglossum singchianum Hoya daimenglongensis Hoya lithophytica Hoya longipedunculata Hoya longipedunculata Hoya mappigera Hoya soidaoensis Hoga somadeeae Hoga thuathienheensis Hoga vangviengiensis Hydrobryum austrolaoticum Hydrobryum austrolaoticum Hydrobryum subcylindricum Hydrobryum takalioides Hydrobryum takalioides Hydrobryum varium Hydrobryum varium Hydrobryum varium Hydrobryum varium Indigofera smithandii Indigofera smithaniisi Indigofera udonthaniensisi Houa somadeea Ischaemum thomasii Jasminum bhumibolianun Justicia hansenii Kaempferia udonensis Kaempferia udonensis Kaempferia xiengkhouangensis Korthalsia minor Lagerstroemia huamotensis Lagerstroemia kratiensis Lagerstroemia menglaensis Lespedeza cambodianum Ligusticum gongshanense Lilium yapingense Liparis damingshanensis Litsea dorsalicana Lockia sonii Maclurochloa tonkinensis Machirochioa tonkhensis Magnolia kwangnanensis Mallotus tokiae Meconopsis exilis Meconopsis muscicola Meconopsis yaoshanensis Meconopsis yaosnanensis Memecylon pseudomegacarpum Michelia xianianhei Microchirita albiflora Microchirita karaketii Microchirita kuraketii Microchirita suddeei Microchirita uoodii Microchirita woodii Musa haekkinenii Nervilia khaoyaica Nervilia khaoyaica Neuwiedia malipoensis Nianhochloa bidoupensis Nomocharis gongshanensis Ophiopogon rupestris Ophiopogon tristylatus Ophiopogon yangshuoensis Oreocharis dayaoshanioides

SCIENTIST(S) W.T.Wang W.T.Wang W.T.Wang W.T.Wang & Z.Y.Wu W.T.Wang W.T.Wang W.T.Wang W.T.Wang, A.K.Monro & Y.G.Wei W.T.Wang W.T.Wang, A.K.Monro & Y.G.Wei W T Wang W.T. Wang W.T. Wang W.T. Wang & Z.Y. Wu W.T. Wang, Y.G. Wei & L.F. Fu W.T. Wang, F. Wen & Y.G. Wei W.I. Wang, F. Wen & T.G. We W.T. Wang, C.X. He & L.F. Fu Picheans. & Yupparach Picheans. & Yupparach Picheans. & Yupparach Ormerod Twinows & Begenbard Traiperm & Boonkerd Praj. & J.Parn. Praj. & J.Parn. Praj. & J.Parn. Praj. & J.Parn. Praj. & Chantar. Praj. & Chantar. Praj. & Chantar. Praj. & J.Parn. C. J. Neorom G.L.Nesom F.N.Wei & J.S.Ma F.N.Wei & J.S.Ma H.N.Nguyen & V.T.Tran H.J.Dong & H.Peng Y.H.Tan & T.C.Hsu L.H.Wu & Z.T.Wang H.N.Nguyen, N.H.Xia & V.T.Tran W.J.Kress & V.Gowda Tange Tange Tange Tange Picheans. & Wongsuwan B.Pan & W.H.Wu W.B.Xu & X.Y.Zhuang Fujikawa G.Q.Zhang, L.J.Chen & Z.J.Liu Shao Y.He & P.T.Li Kidyoo V.T.Pham & Aver. V.T.Pham & Aver. Rodda & Simonsson Kidyoo Rodda & Simonsson Rodda & Simonsson T.B.Tran, Rodda & Simonsson Rodda & Simonsson Koi & M.Kato Werukamkul, Ampornpan, Koi & M.Kato Ampornpan, Werukamkul, Koi & M.Kato Koi & M.Kato Aver. Mattapha & Chantar. Mattapha & Chantar. Traiperm & Boonkerd Traiperm & Boonkerd Chalermglin Rueangs. & Chantar. Wongsuwan & Phokham Picheans. & Phokham Picheans. & Phokham A.J.Hend. & N.Q.Dung W.J.de Wilde & Duyfjes W.J.de Wilde & Duyfjes C.H.Gu, M.C.Ji & D.D.Ma V.D.Nguyen F.T.Pu, R.Li & H.Li Y.D.Gao & X.J.He L.Wu & Y.S.Huang M.Q.Han & Y.S.Huang M.Q.Hail & L.S.Huang Aver. H.N.Nguyen & V.T.Tran S.G.Chen & Q.W.Zeng Welzen Tosh, Yoshida, H.Sun & Grey-Wilson Tosh Yoshida, U.Sun & Benford Tosh.Yoshida, H.Sun & Boufford Tosh.Yoshida, H.Sun & Boufford M.Hughes Q.N.Vu D.J.Middleton & Triboun N.S.Lý & Haev. N.S.Lý & Haev. Suddee, Watthana & S.W.Gale Z.J.Liu, L.J.Chen & K.Wei Liu H.N.Nguyen & V.T.Tran Y.D.Gao & X.J.He Aver. & N.Tanaka Aver., N.Tanaka & Luu R.H.Jiang & W.B.Xu Yan Liu & W.B.Xu

YEAR COUNTRY 2012 China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) 2012 2013 2012 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) China (Guangxi) China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) 2013 China (Guangxi) 2012 China (Yunnan) 2013 China (Guangxi) 2015 China (Yunnan 2012 2012 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) / Vietnam China (Guangxi) China (Yunnan) 2012 2012 China (Guangxi) 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 China (Guangxi) Thailand Thailand Thailand 2012 Myanmai 2012 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 2012 2012 2012 Cambodia / Thailand Thailand Thailand Thailand 2012 2012 Thailand 2012 China (Yunnan) 2013 China (Guangxi) 2013 2012 2013 2013 China (Guangxi) Vietnam China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) 2012 2012 Vietnam 2012 Myanmai 2013 Thailand 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 Thailand Thailand Laos / Thailand Vietnam China (Yunnan) China (Guangxi) 2012 2012 2012 Myanmar 2012 2013 2012 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) Thailand Vietnam Vietnam 2012 2012 Thailand 2013 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 2012 2012 2012 Vietnam Laos Laos Thailand 2012 2012 Laos 2012 Laos 2012 Laos 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 Laos Laos Thailand Laos Vietnam Thailand 2013 2013 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 2013 2013 2013 2013 Thailand Thailand Thailand Thailand Thailand 2013 Laos Laos / Vietnam 2013 2013 Thailand 2013 2013 2012 2013 2013 Cambodia China (Yunnan) Cambodia China (Yunnan) 2013 China (Yunnan) 2012 China (Guangxi) 2013 China (Guangxi) 2012 Vietnam 2012 2013 2013 2013 Vietnam China (Yunnan) Thailand China (Yunnan) / Myanmar 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) 2012 China (Yunnan) 2013 Thailand 2013 2012 2013 2013 2013 Vietnam Thailand Thailand Thailand Thailand 2013 2013 Thailand 2012 Vietnam 2013 Thailand 2013 2012 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) Vietnam China (Yunnan) 2013 Vietnam 2013 Vietnam 2013 China (Guangxi) 2012 China (Guangxi)

Mysterious Mekong: New species discoveries 2012-2013 27

Plants

SPECIES

Oreocharis glandulosa Oreocharis jinpingensis Paraboea angustifolia Paraboea arachnoidea Paraboea arachnoidea Paraboea axillaris Paraboea bhumiboliana Paraboea doitungensis Paraboea eburnea Paraboea hekouensis Paraboea insularis Parahoea lavandulodora Paraboea lavahaliloaor Paraboea manhaoensis Paraboea middletonii Paraboea monticola Paraboea nana Paraboea nobilis Paraboea nootus Paraboea peninsularis Paraboea phanomensis Paraboea quercifolia Paraboea sangwaniae Paraboea cingomeio Paraboea siamensis Paraboea takensis Parahoea temuicaho Paraboea tentacaty Paraboea vachareea Peliosanthes brevicoronata Peliosanthes cambodiana Peliosanthes grandiflora Peliosanthes minutiflora Peliosanthes nivea Peliosanthes nutans Pendulorchis gaoligongense Petrocosmea funingensis Phaius baolocensis Phyllanthus chayamaritiae Pilea cavernicola Pilea shizongensis Piper chantaranothaii Piper chantaranothan Piper doiphukhaense Piper khaoyaiense Piper smitinandianum Platanthera dulongensis Platanthera ovatilabris Pleurospermum tripartitum Polygala obliqua Polygala obliqua Polygpleurum pluricostatum Polyspora huongiana Polystichum oblanceolatum Potentilla jiaozishanensis Primulina bullata Primulina debaoensis Primulina forachorensia Primulina fengshanensis Primulina gengshanensis Primulina gungxhengensis Primulina gungxiensis Primulina guizhongensis Primulina multifida Primulina sinovietnamica Primulina sinovietnamica Primulina gnoretuanica Primulina gangshuoensis Prunus gongshanensis Pseudosasa xishuangbannaensis Pterospermum gracile Raphiocarpus tamdaoensis Rhachidosorus siamensis Rhachodorus siamensis Rhachodorhan baihuaense Rhunchotechum burrananicum Rhynchotechum burmanicum Rhynchotechum vietnamense Rubia nianmaensis Rubia pianmaensis Sarcoglyphis brevilabia Saussurea bijiangensis Schizostachyum nghianum Schoenorchis scolopendria Solanum sakhanii Somrania albiflora Somrania lineata Somrania lineata Stephania novenanthera Terniopsis filiformis Theana vietnamica Thismia filiformis Thismia filiformis Thismia qonqshanensis Tribounia grandiflora Tunistra theana Typhonium rhizomatosum Typhonium supraneeae Typhonium viridispathum Vanila atropogon Vietorchis furcata Vietorchis furcata Winitia expansa Wrightia calcicola Xyris bituberosa Xyris emarginata Xyris thailandica Zingiber popaense Acanthocobitis pictilis

SCIENTIST(S) Y.H.Tan & J.W.Li W.H.Chen & Y.M.Shui Yan Liu & W.B.Xu Triboun Triboun Triboun & Chuchan Triboun & D.J.Middleton Triboun Y.M.Shui & W.H.Chen Triboun Tribour Y.M.Shui & W.H.Chen Y.M.Shul & W.H.Chen Triboun Triboun & D.J.Middleton Triboun & D.J.Middleton Triboun & D.J.Middleton Triboun & D.J.Middleton Triboun Triboun Triboun Triboun Triboun Tribour Triboun & Sonsupab Triboun & Sonsupab M.N.Tamura & Poopath Aver, & N.Tanaka Aver, & N.Tanaka N.Tanaka, J.Murata & S.K.Wu Aver, & N.Tanaka Aver, & N.Tanaka Aver. & N.Tanaka G.Q.Zhang, K.Wei Liu & Z.J.Liu Qiang Zhang & B.Pan Duy, Tao Chen & D.X.Zhang Chantar. & Kantachot A.K.Monro, C.J.Chen & Y.G.Wei A.K.Monro, C.J.Chen & Y.G.Wei Suwanph. & D.A.Simpson Suwanph & D.A.Simpson Suwanph & Chantar. Suwanph & D.A.Simpson Suwanph & Chantar. X.H.Jin & Efimov X.H.Jin & Efimo F.T.Pu, R.Li & H.Li Pendry Koi & M.Kato Orel, Curry & Luu H.He & Li Bing Zhang Huan C.Wang & Z.R.He S.N.Lu & F.Wen N.Jiang & Hong Li F.Wen & Yue Wang Y.S.Huang & Yan Liu Yan Liu & W.B.Xu Bo Zhao, B.Pan & F.Wen B.Pan & K.F.Chung W.B.Xu & Yan Liu W.H.Wu & Qiang Zhang Y.G.Wei & F.Wen J.Wen D.Z.Li, Y.X.Zhang & Triplett P Wilki Phuong, Xuyen & Y.G.Wei S.Linds. Y.P.Ma B.M.Anderson B.M.Anderson R.Li & H.Li Aver. Aver. Y.L.Chen ex B.Q.Xu, N.H.Xia & G.Hao N.H.Xia & V.T.Tran Aver. Hul D.J.Middleton D.J.Middleton & Triboun Heng C.Wang Werukamkul, Ampornpan, Koi & M.Kato Werukamkul, Ampornpan, Koi & M.Kato Aver. Chantanaorr. Hong Qing Li & Y.K.Bi D.J.Middleton Aver. & N.Tanaka Aver, & N.Tanaka A.Galloway & Petra Schmidt A.Galloway, Petra Schmidt & Sinhab. A.Galloway & Sinhab. Schuit, Aver, & Rybková Aver, & Nuraliev Chaowasku D.J.Middleton Phonsena & Chantar. Phonsena & Chantar. Phonsena & Chantar. Nob.Tanaka Kottelat, M. Liu, S.-W., Y. Zhu, R.-F. Wei and X.-Y. Chen Kowasupat, C., B. Panijpan, P. Ruenwongsa and N. Sriwattanarothai. N. Sriwattanaronai, Nguyen, V.H., T.H.T. Nguyen and T.D.P. Nguyen Kottelat, M. Ng, H.H., C.J. Ferraris Jr. and D.A. Neely Ng, H.H., C.J. Ferraris Jr. and D.A. Neely

2013 2013 2012 2012 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) China (Guangxi) China (Guangxi) Thailand Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 China (Yunnan) 2012 2012 2012 2012 Thailand Thailand China (Yun an) Thailand 2013 Thailand 2012 2012 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 Thailand Thailand Thailand Thailand Thailand 2012 2012 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 2012 2013 2013 Myanmar / Thailand Thailand Cambodia 2012 Vietnam China (Yunnan) 2013 2012 Vietnam 2012 Vietnam 2012 2013 2013 2012 China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) Vietnam 2013 Thailand 2012 China (Guangxi) 2012 China (Yunnan) 2012 Thailand 2012 2012 2012 2012 Thailand Thailand Thailand China (Yunnan) 2012 2012 China (Yunnan) 2012 China (Yunnan) 2013 Thailand 2013 2012 2012 2012 2013 Laos Vietnam China (Guangxi) China (Yunnan) 2013 China (Guangxi) 2013 China (Guangxi) 2012 China (Guangxi) 2012 2012 2012 2013 2013 2012 2012 China (Guangxi) 2012 China (Guangxi) China (Yunnan) / Myanmar 2012 2012 2013 2013 2012 China (Yunnan) China (Yunnan) Thailand Vietnam 2012 Thailand China (Yunnan) 2013 2013 Mvanmar 2013 Vietnam 2013 2013 2012 2013 2013 China (Yunnan) Vietnam China (Yunnan) Vietnam Vietnam 2012 2013 Cambodia 2012 Thailand 2012 Thailand 2012 2013 2012 2012 Thailand China (Guangxi) Thailand Thailand 2012 Vietnam 2012 Thailand 2013 China (Yunnan) 2012 Thailand 2012 2012 2012 2012 Vietnam Thailand Thailand Thailand 2012 2013 Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam Thailand Thailand Thailand Thailand 2013 2013 2013 2013 2012 2012 2012 Thailand 2012 Myanmar Myanmar / Thailand 2012 2012 China (Guangxi) 2012 Thailand 2012 Vietnam Vietnam 2012 2012 Myanmar 2012 Myanmar

YEAR

COUNTRY

China (Yunnan)

28 Mysterious Mekong: New species discoveries 2012-2013

Balitora ludongensis Betta mahachaiensis

Channa longistomata

Erethistoides luteolus

Draconectes narinosus Erethistoides longispinis

Fish

Fish	SPECIES Erethistoides vesculus	SCIENTIST(S) Ng, H.H., C.J. Ferraris Jr. and D.A. Neely	YEAR 2012	COUNTRY Myanmar
	Glyptothorax igniculus	Heok Hee Ng & Sven O. Kullander	2012	Myanmar
	Lates uwisara	Pethiyagoda, R. and A.C. Gill	2012	Myanmar
	Oreias sonlaensis	Nguyen, T.H., V.H. Nguyen and T.T. Hoang	2012	Vietnam
	Oreias trilineatus	Nguyen, T.H., V.H. Nguyen and T.T. Hoang	2012	Vietnam
	Oreonectes elongatus Parabotia brevirostris	Tang, L., Y. Zhao and C. Zhang Zhu, DG. and Y. Zhu	2012 2012	China (Guangxi) China (Guangxi)
	Phallostethus cuulong	Shibukawa, K., D.D. Tran and L.X. Tran	2012	Vietnam
	Physoschistura chulabhornae	Apinun Suvarnaraksha	2013	Thailand
	Schistura prolixifasciata	Zheng, LP., JX. Yang and XY. Chen	2012	China (Yunnan)
	Scleropages inscriptus	Roberts, T.R.	2012	Myanmar
	Sinocyclycheilus flexuosdorsalis Tetraodon palustris	Zhu, DG. and Y. Zhu Pasakorn Saenjundaeng, Chavalit Vidthavanon & Chaiwut Grudpun	2012 2013	China (Guangxi) Thailand
	Triplophysa huanjiangesis	Yang, J., TJ. Wu and JH. Lan	2013	China (Guangxi)
	Triplophysa huapingensis	Zheng, LP., J.X. Yang and XY. Chen	2012	China (Guangxi)
	Triplophysa lihuensis	Wu, TJ., J. Yang and JH. Lan	2012	China (Guangxi)
	Yunnanilus niulanensis	Chen, Z., J. Yang and J. Yang	2012	China (Yunnan)
Amphibiana	Amolops indoburmanensis	Dever, Fuiten, Konu, and Wilkinson	2012	Myanmar
Amphibians	Ansonia thinthinae	Wilkinson, Sellas, and Vindum	2012	Myanmar
	Gracixalus nonggangensis	Mo Y, Zhang W, Luo Y, Zhou S, Chen W	2013	China (Guangxi)
	Gracixalus waza Hoplobatrachus litoralis	Nguyen TQ, Le MD, Pham CT, Nguyen TT, Bonkowski M, Ziegler T. Hasan, Kuramoto, Islam, Alam, Khan, and Sumida	2013 2012	Vietnam Myanmar
	Ichthyophis nguyenorum	Nishikawa, Matsui, and Orlov	2012	Vietnam
	Kaloula indochinensis	Chan KO, Blackburn DC, Murphy RW, Stuart BL, Emmett DA, Ho CT, Brown RM	2013	Cambodia / Laos / Vietnam
	Kaloula nonggangensis	Mo Y, Zhang W, Zhou S, Chen T, Tang H, Meng Y, Chen W	2013	China (Guangxi)
	Leptobrachium rakhinensis	Wogan	2012	Myanmar
	Leptobrachium xanthops Leptolalax botsfordi	Stuart, Phimmachak, Seateun, and Sivongxay	2012	Laos / Vietnam
	Leptolalax firthi	Jodi J.L. Rowley, Vinh Quang Dau, Tao Thien Nguyen Rowley, Hoang, Dau, and Le	2013 2012	Vietnam Vietnam
	Leptolalax zhangyapingi	Jiang K, Yan F, Suwannapoom C, Chomdej S, Che J.	2012	Thailand
	Philautus nianeae	Stuart, Phimmachak, Seateun & Sheridan	2013	Laos
	Polypedates discantus	Rujirawan A, Stuart BL, Aowphol A	2013	Thailand
	Rhacophorus robertingeri	Orlov, Poyarkov, Vassilieva, Ananjeva, Nguyen, Sang, and Geissler	2012	Vietnam
	Theloderma bambusicolum Theloderma chuyangsinense	Orlov, Poyarkov, Vassilieva, Ananjeva, Nguyen, Sang, and Geissler Orlov, Poyarkov, Vassilieva, Ananjeva, Nguyen, Sang, and Geissler	2012 2012	Vietnam Vietnam
	Tylototriton panhai	Kanto Nishikawa, Wichase Khonsue, Porrawee Pomchote & Masafumi Matsui	2012	Thailand
	Tylototriton uyenoi	Kanto Nishikawa, Wichase Khonsue, Porrawee Pomchote & Masafumi Matsui	2013	Thailand
	Tylototriton ziegleri	Kanto Nishikawa, Masafumi Matsui, and Tao Thien Nguyen	2013	Vietnam
TD 11	Azemiops albocephala	Orlov, Ryabov & Nguyen	2013	China (Yunnan)
Reptiles	Azemiops kharini	Orlov, Ryabov & Nguyen	2013	China (Guangxi, Yunnan) / Vietnam
1	Calotes bachae	Hartmann, Geissler, Poyarkov, Ihlow, Galoyan, Rödder & Böhme	2013	Vietnam
	Cyrtodactylus astrum	Grismer, Wood Jr, Quah, Anuar, Muin, Sumontha, Ahmad, Bauer, Wangkulangkul, Grismer & Pauwels	2012	Thailand
	Cyrtodactylus bidoupimontis	Nazarov, Poyarkov, Orlov, Phung, Nguyen, Hoang & Ziegler	2012	Vietnam Thailand
	Cyrtodactylus bintangtinggi Cyrtodactylus bugiamapensis	Grismer, Wood Jr, Quah, Anuar, Muin, Sumontha, Ahmad, Bauer, Wangkulangkul, Grismer & Pauwels Nazarov, Poyarkov, Orlov, Phung, Nguyen, Hoang & Ziegler	2012 2012	Vietnam
	Cyrtodactylus dati	Ngo Van Tri	2012	Cambodia / Vietnam
	Cyrtodactylus kingsadai	Ziegler, Phung, Le & Nguyen	2013	Vietnam
	Cyrtodactylus lekaguli	Grismer, Wood Jr, Quah, Anuar, Muin, Sumontha, Ahmad, Bauer, Wangkulangkul, Grismer & Pauwels	2012	Thailand
	Cyrtodactylus phuketensis	Sumontha, Pauwels, Kunya, Nitikul, Samphanthamit & Grismer	2012	Thailand
	Cyrtodactylus phuocbinhensis Cyrtodactylus sanook	Nguyen, Le, Tran, Orlov, Lathrop, Macculloch, Le, Jin, Nguyen, Nguyen, Hoang, Che, Murphy & Zhang Pauwels, Sumontha, Latinne & Grismer	2013 2013	Vietnam Thailand
	Cyrtodactylus taynguyenensis	Nguyen, Le, Tran, Orlov, Lathrop, Macculloch, Le, Jin, Nguyen, Nguyen, Hoang, Che, Murphy & Zhang	2013	Vietnam
	Cyrtodactylus thochuensis	Ngo Van Tri & Grismer	2012	Vietnam
	Dendrelaphis nigroserratus	Vogel, Van Rooijen & Hauser	2012	Myanmar / Thailand
	Gekko adleri	Nguyen, Wang, Yang, Lehmann, Le, Ziegler & Bonkowski	2013	China (Guangxi) / Vietnam
	Hemiphyllodactylus zugi Homalopsis mereljcoxi	Nguyen, Lehmann, Le Duc, Duong, Bonkowski & Ziegler Murphy, Voris, Murthy, Traub & Cumberbatch	2013 2012	China (Guangxi) / Vietnam Cambodia / Thailand / Vietnam
	Japalura brevicauda	Marthey, Denzer, Hou & Wang	2012	China (Yunnan)
	Japalura yulongensis	Manthey, Denzer, Hou & Wang	2012	China (Yunnan)
	Lycodon davidi	Vogel, Nguyen, Kingsda & Ziegler	2012	Laos
	Lygosoma veunsaiensis	Geissler, Hartmann & Neang	2012	Cambodia
	Oligodon cattienensis Oligodon kampucheaensis	Vassilieva, Geissler, Galoyan, Poyarkov Jr, Van Devender & Böhme Neang, Grismer & Daltry	2013 2012	Vietnam Cambodia
	Oligodon nagao	David, Nguyen, Nguyen, Jiang, Chen, Teynié & Ziegler	2012 2012	Cambodia China (Guangxi) / Laos / Vietnam
	Ptychozoon kaengkrachanense	Sumontha, Pauwels, Kunya, Limlikhitaksorn, Ruksue, Taokratok, Ansermet & Chanhome	2012	Thailand
	Sphenomorphus sheai	Nguyen, Nguyen, Van Devender, Bonkowski & Ziegler	2013	Vietnam
Birds	Orthotomus chaktomuk	S. P. Mahood, A. J. I. John, J. C. Eames, C. H. Oliveros, R. G. Moyle, Hong Chamnan, C. M. Poole, H. Nielsen & F. H. Sheldon	2013	Cambodia
Mammals	Biswamoyopterus laoensis	Daosavanh Sanamxay, Bounsavane Douangboubpha, Sara Bumrungsri, Sysouphanh Xayavong, Vilakhan	2013	Laos
manninais	Hipposideros griffini	Xayaphet, Chutamas Satasook & Paul J.J. Bates Thong, V. D., S. J. Puechmaille, A. Denzinger, C. Dietz, G. Csorba, P. J. J. Bates, E. C. Teeling, and HU.	2012	Vietnam
	Murina balaensis	Schnitzler. Pipat Soisook, Sunate Karapan, Chutamas Satasook & Paul J. J. Bates	2013	Thailand
	marina balactists	i ipit ootsoor, ounait Karapan, Onutainas Satasook & Fälli J. J. Bälles	2013	1 manaliti

Total: 367

REFERENCES

¹ WWF. 2008. *First Contact in the Greater Mekong*. WWF-Greater Mekong, Lao PDR.

² WWF. 2009. *Close Encounters: Greater Mekong New Species Discoveries*. WWF-Greater Mekong, Lao PDR.

³ WWF. 2010. New Blood: Greater Mekong New Species Discoveries 2009. WWF-Greater Mekong, Lao PDR.

⁴ WWF. 2011. Wild Mekong: New Species in 2010 from the Forests, Wetlands and Waters of the Greater Mekong, Asia's Land of Rivers. WWF-Greater Mekong, Lao PDR.

⁵ WWF. 2012. *Extra-Terrestrial: Extraordinary new species discoveries in 2011 from the Greater Mekong*. WWF-Greater Mekong, Hanoi, Vietnam.

⁶ Inadequate protection causes Javan rhino extinction in Vietnam. WWF International press release, 25 October 2011. http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/species_programme/species_news/?202074/Inadequate-protection-causes-Javan-rhino-extinction-in-Vietnam.

⁷ WWF. 2010. *Tigers on the Brink: Facing up to the Challenge in the Greater Mekong.* WWF-Greater Mekong, Lao PDR.

⁸ *ICCWC launches wildlife and forest crime toolkit.* The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) press release, 25 July 2012. http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120725_ICCWC_toolkit.php

⁹ WWF, 2013. *Ecosystems in the Greater Mekong: past trends, current status, possible futures.* WWF-Greater Mekong, Lao PDR.

¹⁰ Tordoff et al. 2007. *Ecosystem Profile: Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot Indochina Region. Final Version.* USA: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Conservation International.

¹¹ Mahood et al. 2013. A new species of lowland tailorbird (Passeriformes: Cisticolidae: Orthotomus) from the Mekong floodplain of Cambodia. *Forktail* 29: 1-14.

¹² Orlov NL, Ryabovn SA, Nguyen TT. 2013. On the Taxonomy and the Distribution of Snakes of the Genus Azemiops Boulenger, 1888: Description of a New Species. *Russian Journal of Herpetology* 20:110-128.

¹³ Orlov NL, Ryabovn SA, Nguyen TT. 2013. On the Taxonomy and the Distribution of Snakes of the Genus Azemiops Boulenger, 1888: Description of a New Species. *Russian Journal of Herpetology* 20:110-128.

¹⁴ Saenjundaeng, Pasakorn, Chavalit Vidthayanon & Chaiwut Grudpun. 2013. *Tetraodon palustris*, a new freshwater pufferfish (Tetraodontiformes: Tetraodontidae) from the Mekong Basin of Thailand. *Zootaxa*. 3686(1): 77–84.

¹⁵ Sanamxay, Daosavanh; Douangboubpha, Bounsavane; Bumrungsri, Sara; Xayavong, Sysouphanh; Xayaphet, Vilakhan; Satasook, Chutamas; Bates, Paul J.J. (2013). Rediscovery of *Biswamoyopterus* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae: Pteromyini) in Asia, with the description of a new species from Lao PDR. *Zootaxa* (Magnolia Press) 3686 (4): 471–481.

¹⁶ Sanamxay, Daosavanh; Douangboubpha, Bounsavane; Bumrungsri, Sara; Xayavong, Sysouphanh; Xayaphet, Vilakhan; Satasook, Chutamas; Bates, Paul J.J. (2013). Rediscovery of *Biswamoyopterus* (Mammalia: Rodentia: Sciuridae: Pteromyini) in Asia, with the description of a new species from Lao PDR. *Zootaxa* (Magnolia Press) 3686 (4): 471–481.

¹⁷ Vu Dinh Thong, Sebastien J. Puechmaille, Annette Denzinger, Christian Dietz, Gabor Csorba, Paul J. J. Bates, Emma C. Teeling, Hans-Ulrich Schnitzler. A new species of *Hipposideros* (Chiroptera: Hipposideridae) from Vietnam. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 2012; 93 (1): 1 DOI: 10.1644/11-MAMMA-073.19.

¹⁸ Ziegler et al. 2008. A new species of *Goniurosaurus* from Cat Ba Island, Hai Phong, northern Vietnam (Squamata: Eublepharidae). *Zootaxa* 1771: 16–30.

¹⁹ Pipat Soisook, Sunate Karapan, Chutamas Satasook, and Paul J. J. Bates. 2013. A new species of Murina (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae) from peninsular Thailand. *Zootaxa* 3746 (4): 567–579.

²⁰ Peter Geissler, Timo Hartmann & Thy Neang. A new species of the genus Lygosoma Hardwicke & Gray, 1827 (Squamata: Scincidae) from northeastern Cambodia, with an updated identification key to the genus *Lygosoma* in mainland Southeast Asia. *Zootaxa* 3190: 56–68 (10 Feb. 2012) 5 plate; 43 references Accepted: 3 Jan. 2012.

²¹ *Shiny new lizard discovered in northeast Cambodia.* Fauna & Flora International (FFI). Press release 23 February 2012.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Jodi J. L. Rowley, Dao Thi Anh Tran, Huy Duc Hoang & Duong Thi Thuy LE (2012). A New Species of Large Flying Frog (Rhacophoridae: Rhacophorus) from Lowland Forests in Southern Vietnam. *Journal of Herpetology*. 46:480-487.

²⁶ Australian Museum. Huge, Green Flying Frog discovered in the lowland forests of Vietnam By: Dr Jodi Rowley. Category: Science, Date: 08 Jan 2013 - See more at: http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/BlogPost/Science-Bytes/Huge-Green-Flying-Frog-discovered-in-the-lowland-forestsof-Vietnam

²⁷ Ibid.

 $^{\rm 28}$ http://australianmuseum.net.au/BlogPost/Science/Huge-Green-Flying-Frog-discovered-in-the-lowland-forests-of-Vietnam

²⁹ *New species of flying frog discovered in Vietnam*. ABC News (Australia), Wednesday, 16 January 2013: http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2013/01/16/3670547.htm

³⁰ Shibukawa, K., Tran, D.D. & Tran, L.X. (2012): Phallostethus cuulong, a new species of priapiumfish (Actinopterygii: Atheriniformes: Phallostethidae) from the Vietnamese Mekong. *Zootaxa*, 3363:45–51.

 $^{\rm 31}$ The fish with its genitals on its head. New Scientist, 11 July 2012 . Magazine issue 2873. Accessed: 25 May 2013.

³² http://www.livescience.com/22824-penis-head-fish-discovered.html

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Murphy, John C.; Harold K. Voris, B.H.C.K. Murthy, Joshua Traub & Christina Cumberbatch, 2012. The masked water snakes of the genus Homalopsis Kuhl & van Hasselt, 1822 (Squamata, Serpentes, Homalopsidae), with the description of a new species. *Zootaxa* 3208: 1–26.

³⁷ Brooks, S.E., Allison, E.H. and Reynolds, J.D. 2007. Vulnerability of Cambodian water snakes: Initial assessment of the impact of hunting at Tonle Sap Lake. *Biological Conservation* 39(1): 401-414.

³⁸ Bulbophyllum salmoneum Aver. et J.J.Verm., sp. nov. in Leonid V. Averyanov. 2012. New Orchid Taxa and Records in the Flora of Vietnam. *Taiwania*, 57(2): 127-152, 2012 (June 2012).
 ³⁹ Sumontha, M., Pauwels, O.S.G., Kunya, K., Nitikul, A., Samphanthamit, P. & Grismer, L.L. (2012)A new forest-dwelling gecko from Phuket Island, Southern Thailand, related to Cyrtodactylus macrotuberculatus (Squamata: Gekkonidae). *Zootaxa* 3522: 61–72.

⁴⁰ Jäger, P. 2012. Revision of the genus Sinopoda Jäger 1999 in Laos with discovery of the first eyeless huntsman spider species. *Zootaxa* 3415: 37–57 (2012).

⁴¹ Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum (2012, August 9). And then there was light! Discovery of the world's first eyeless huntsman spider. ScienceDaily. Retrieved May 23, 2013, from http://www.sciencedaily.com-/releases/2012/08/120809090431.htm

⁴² http://www.senckenberg.de/root/index.php?page_id=5210&kid=2&id=2376

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ http://www.sci-news.com/biology/article00520.html

⁴⁶ http://www.senckenberg.de/root/index.php?page_id=5210&kid=2&id=2376

⁴⁷ Montri Sumontha, Olivier S.G. Pauwels, Kirati Kunya, Chaiwat Limlikhitaksorn, Sirichai

Ruksue, Apirat Taokratok, Michel Ansermet & Lawan Chanhome 2012. A New Species Of Parachute Gecko (Squamata: Gekkonidae: Genus Ptychozoon) From Kaeng Krachan National Park, Western Thailand . *Zootaxa* 3513 68-78.

⁴⁸ http://squamates.blogspot.com/2012/10/a-new-thai-parachute-gecko.html

⁴⁹ Ibid.

50 Ibid.

⁵¹ Nguyen, V.H., T.H.T. Nguyen and T.D.P. Nguyen, 2012. A new fish species of the walking snakehead group, the genus Channa (Channidae, Perciformes) in Vietnam. *Vietnam J. Biol.* 34(2):145-157.

⁵² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snakehead_(fish)

⁵³ *Fishzilla: Snakehead Invasion*. National Geographic, 10 August 2011.

⁵⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snakehead_(fish)

55 Ibid.

⁵⁶ Vogel, Gernot; Johan Van Rooijen & Sjon Hauser 2012. A new species of Dendrelaphis Boulenger, 1890 (Squamata: Colubridae) from Thailand and Myanmar. *Zootaxa* 3392: 35–46.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ http://www.ecologyasia.com/verts/snakes/sawtooth-necked-bronzeback.htm

⁵⁹ http://www.ecologyasia.com/verts/snakes/sawtooth-necked-bronzeback.htm

Greater Mekong in numbers



Today the Greater Mekong region is an integral part of one of the top five most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world

60 million

367

new species were discovered between 2012 and 2013 —

The Lower Mekong River provides food and livelihoods for 60 million people

850+ freshwater fish species live in the Mekong and its tributaries



Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and

to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. www.panda.org/greatermekong

© 1986 Panda symbol WWF – World Wide Fund For Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund) ® "WWF" is a WWF Registered Trademark.

WWF-Greater Mekong, No. 87 Soi Paholyothin, 5 Paholyothin Road, Samsen Nai, Phayathai Bangkok 10400, Thailand. Tel. +66 2619 8534-37