

Project Update: August 2014

A short guide was organised in May 2014 for staff of Hin Nam No National Protected Area (NPA) and local people who participated in the project. They also practised using survey equipment (GPS, digital camera, recorder, photographic map.) and skills on developing a survey plan, selecting survey sites, setting up investigational transects in the forest, collecting data in the field, and species identification.

Field surveys were conducted in limestone, mixed deciduous, and evergreen forests of Hin Nam No NPA and surrounding areas between May and July 2014 including the highest Phou Chuong Mountain, Ban Kaan, Ban Cha Lou, Ban Noong Ma, Boulapha and Mahaxay areas. In total, 37 specimens of reptiles and amphibians (25 *Cyrtodactylus*, 4 *Gekko*, 5 *Rhacophorus*, and 3 *Lymnonectes*) were carefully examined of morphological data collected at the Laboratory of the Zoological Institute during August 2014.

As a preliminary result, the project was discovered the *Rhacophorus maximus* and *Cyrtodactylus cryptus* are known for the first time from Laos. Two species are known for the first record from Khammouane Province: *Gekko petricolus* and *Lymnonectes gyndenstolpei*. Specimens of *Cyrtodactylus* cf. *jarujini* and *Cyrtodactylus* cf. *interdigitalis* were also found in Khammouane Province. However, the taxonomic placement of this specimens are unclear based on morphological examination only and thus molecular comparisons are currently processed.



Left: An isolated karst forest in Boulapha District. Right: *Cyrtodactylus cryptus*.



Left: *Gekko petricolus*. Right: *Lymnonectes gyldenstolpei*.