

Abstract

Hemidactylus is one of the most successful groups within the infraorder Gekkota of squamate reptiles. With more than 180 species it represents the second most species-rich gekkotan genus. In last decades it has been the subject of a rather intensive research, which provided great insight into its phylogeny, inner structure, range, biogeography and taxonomy. The number of described species has more than doubled in the same timespan. Despite this increase of knowledge as well as its evolutionary success, which make the *Hemidactylus* genus a good model for study of diversification and evolution, there has been no in depth study conducted regarding these topics. This thesis constitutes an attempt at such a study of the phylogeny and evolution of the genus, its history, dispersal and diversification dynamics, based on more complete species sampling than has been used in any study so far.