



A new species of the genus *Phymaturus* of the *flagellifer* group from Central-Western Mendoza, Argentina (Reptilia: Iguania: Liolaemidae)

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Abstract

A new *Phymaturus* species of the *flagellifer* (= *palluma*) group inhabiting the Reserve Laguna del Diamante (San Carlos, Mendoza province) is described herein as *Phymaturus gynechlomus*. The meristic and morphometric characters of this new species are compared to the equivalent set of traits of other geographically close species of the same group. The new species stands out for the uniform dorsal colour of females, with an absence of a pattern of spots, dark irregular ocellus or grooves which differentiate it from the females of the other known species of the group.

Key words: Rocky Lizard, Taxonomy, Laguna del Diamante Reserve, Reptiles, *Phymaturus*

Una nueva especie del género *Phymaturus* del grupo *flagellifer* del centro-oeste de Mendoza, Argentina (Reptilia: Iguania: Liolaemidae)

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de *Phymaturus* del grupo *flagellifer* (= *palluma*), que habita la Reserva Laguna del Diamante (San Carlos, provincia de Mendoza), bajo el binomio *Phymaturus gynechlomus*. Los caracteres merísticos y morfométricos son comparados con las especies vecinas geográficas del mismo grupo. La nueva especie se destaca por la coloración dorsal uniforme de la hembra, con ausencia del patrón de manchas, ocelos o estrías oscuras irregulares que la diferencia de las hembras de las restantes especies conocidas de este grupo.

Palabras claves: Lagarto de Rocas, Taxonomía, Reserva Laguna del Diamante, Reptiles, *Phymaturus*

Introduction

The genus *Phymaturus* (Liolaemidae) currently comprises 21 species of saxicolous, viviparous and mainly herbivorous lizards from Argentina. These species are widely spread in the highlands of the Andes, from Catamarca (25° 40' S) to the southern border of Chubut (45° 30' S), including the volcanic plateaus of Patagonia (Chebez *et al.* 2005; Scolaro 2005, 2006; Scolaro & Ibarzüengoytía 2007). Only two of these species are currently known in the Andes of Chile (Pincheira-Donoso 2004; Pincheira-Donoso *et al.* 2008a).

The genus *Phymaturus* is characterized by robust lizards of stout, wide and flattened bodies that can squeeze into small rock crevices, thick tail with mucronate and spinose scales, lateral nuchal skin folds with fat-filled pouches, among other exclusive characters (Cei 1986; Etheridge 1995). Two groups of species (Cei