



# Article

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## Taxonomic status of two enigmatic Mexican anoles: *Anolis cumingii* Peters 1863 and *Anolis guentherii* Bocourt 1873 (Reptilia, Squamata, Dactyloidae)

GUNTHER KÖHLER<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Senckenberganlage 25, 60325 Frankfurt a.M., Germany

<sup>2</sup>Correspondence: e-mail, gkoehler@senckenberg.de

### Abstract

The examination of the holotype of *Anolis cumingii* Peters 1863 revealed that it is a representative of *A. sericeus* Hallowell 1856 and, therefore, this name is synonymized with the latter epithet. The examination of the holotype of *Anolis guentherii* Bocourt 1873 revealed that it is a representative of the Caribbean species *A. grahami* Gray 1845 and, therefore, this name is synonymized with the latter epithet.

**Key words:** Reptilia: *Anolis grahami*, *Anolis sericeus*, synonymy

### Resumen

El estudio del holotipo de *Anolis cumingii* Peters 1863 reveló que es un representante de *A. sericeus* Hallowell 1856, y consecuentemente, este nombre es sinonimizado con el último epíteto. El estudio del holotipo de *Anolis guentherii* Bocourt 1873 reveló que es un representante de *A. grahami* Gray 1845, y consecuentemente, este nombre es sinonimizado con el último epíteto.

In 1863, Peters described *Anolis cumingii* based on an adult male (now ZMB 4105) supposedly having come from Mexico (“welches aus Mexico stammen soll”), named after a Mr. Cuming, who donated the specimen. Although this nominal species has been mentioned in some publications (e.g., Burt and Myers 1942, Smith and Taylor 1950a, Fitch and Henderson 1973), its taxonomic identity has always been uncertain (Lieb 2001). Etheridge (1959) listed the species (as *Anolis cumingi*) but did not examine any specimens. Lieb (1995: 146) stated that this species along with some other enigmatic nominal taxa has “not been studied enough to be allied [associated] with any extant population in México.” A similar statement is found in Lieb (2001). In their classification of anoles, Savage & Guyer (1989:111) referred to this species as “*Norops* of uncertain status.” Nicholson (2002) did not mention this taxon in her checklist of *Norops*.

Bocourt (1873) described *Anolis guentherii* as a new species (spelled “*guntherii*” on page 61 and “*guentherii*” on page 62 of the original description, respectively; since this species’ epithet is a patronym honoring Albert C.L.G. Günther, the correct spelling is *guentherii*). Bocourt based this taxon on a female specimen (now MNHN 712) that the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, had received from the “Musée de Milan” with the notice that this specimen had come from “Mexique.” Due to this supposed imprecise type locality, this nominal species has since been associated with Mexico (e.g., Cope 1887, Smith and Taylor 1950a,b, Fitch and Henderson 1973), although it was not mentioned in the more recent anole checklists (i.e., Savage & Guyer 1989, Lieb 1995, 2001, Nicholson 2002). Stuart (1955:19) suggested that “*A. guntheri* Bocourt probably” might be synonymous with *A. rodriguezii* Bocourt.

I had the privilege of examining the holotypes of *Anolis cumingii* and *A. guentherii*, respectively, and with this note I attempt to clarify the identity of these nominal species. I provide a description and photographs of external morphology of each of the type specimens.