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The missing leopard lizard: *Liolaemus ubaghsi* sp. nov., a new species of the *leopardinus* clade (Reptilia: Squamata: Liolaemidae) from the Andes of the O'Higgins Region in Chile

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Abstract

Liolaemus is an extremely species rich genus of iguanid lizards from southern South America. Most of the diversity though is found in the Andes Cordillera, between Argentina and Chile. Here we describe *Liolaemus ubaghsi* sp. nov., from El Teniente Mine, in the Andean mountains of the O'Higgins Region in Chile. This species presents scalation and pattern traits that belong to the *leopardinus* clade, a group of viviparous, high altitude lizards that inhabit the mountain ranges surrounding Santiago City. The species of this clade in turn belong to the Andean and Patagonian *elongatus-kriegi* complex. *Liolaemus ubaghsi* sp. nov. has been previously recognized as *L. leopardinus* and *L. elongatus*, nevertheless we present diagnostic traits that allow us to describe it as a new species. It mainly differs from the rest of the *leopardinus* clade (*L. leopardinus*, *L. ramonensis*, *L. valdesianus* and *L. frassinettii*) by having the following unique combination of traits: ochre background coloration, a wide dark occipital stripe, dark flanks, white dots dispersed on the dorsum, absence of leopard-like spots and enlarged infralabial scales.

Key words: *L. elongatus*, *leopardinus* group, Sewell, El Teniente, Andes

Resumen

Liolaemus es un género extremadamente rico de lagartos iguánidos del sur de Sudamérica. La mayor parte de su diversidad sin embargo se encuentra en la Cordillera de los Andes entre Chile y Argentina. Aquí describimos a *Liolaemus ubaghsi* sp. nov., de la Mina El Teniente, en los Andes de la Región de O'Higgins en Chile. Esta especie presenta caracteres de escamación y diseño que pertenecen al clado *leopardinus*, un grupo de lagartos vivíparos de altura que habitan las montañas alrededor de la ciudad de Santiago. Las especies de este clado pertenecen a su vez al grupo andino patagónico conocido como complejo *elongatus-kriegi*. *Liolaemus ubaghsi* sp. nov. ha sido previamente reconocido como *L. leopardinus* y *L. elongatus*, sin embargo presentamos características diagnósticas que nos permiten describirla como una especie nueva. Se diferencia del resto del clado *leopardinus* (*L. leopardinus*, *L. ramonensis*, *L. valdesianus* y *L. frassinettii*) por tener una combinación única de caracteres: coloración de fondo ocre, una banda occipital ancha oscura, flancos oscuros, puntos blancos dispersos en el dorso, ausencia de manchas de tipo leopardo y escamas infralabiales agrandadas.

Introduction

Any systematic, evolutionary or ecological work on the iguanian lizard genus *Liolaemus* (Wiegmann 1834), highlights its remarkable species richness and the wide diversity of habitats these species use (Donoso-Barros

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APPENDIX I. Specimens examined (specimens additionally used for genetic distance in bold)

- Liolaemus frassinettii*: Altos de Cantillana, Metropolitan Region, Chile: Unknown coordinates: MNHNCL 1035 (Holotype), LCUC 800, 801. 33°56'S 70°57'W, 2109 masl: MNHNCL 4140–4142. 33°54'S; 70°58'W: **SSUC Re 80**.
- Liolaemus leopardinus*: El Colorado, Metropolitan Region, Chile: 33°20'S 70°17'W, 2745 masl: MNHNCL 3437–3439. Farellones, Metropolitan Region, Chile: 33°34'S 70°29'W: MNHNCL 4025, 4027, 4028, **4890**, 4891, SSUC Re 364–367.
- Liolaemus ramonensis*: Quebrada de Macul, Metropolitan Region, Chile: MNHNCL 4007, 4008, 4012, 4015, 4016, 4017. For genetic distance: San Ramon Mountain, Metropolitan Region, Chile: 33°28'S 70°23'W: **SSUC Re 490**.
- Liolaemus ubaghsi*: Chapa Verde, Sewell, between the ski field and reservoir, Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins Region, Chile. 34°03'S 70°26'W, 2210 masl: MNHNCL 3808–3816. Tranque Barahona, O'Higgins Region, Chile: **SSUC Re 491–492**. Sapos Reservoir, El Teniente Mine, O'Higgins Region, Chile. 34°04'S 70°22'W, 1870 masl: MNHNCL 0605–0613.
- Liolaemus valdesianus*: Panimávida area, Morado Mountain, Cajón del Maipo, Metropolitan Region, Chile. 33°47'S 70°02'W, 2800 masl: MNHNCL 0002, 0004, 0005, 0006. Cajón del Maipo, Metropolitan Region, Chile (Exact location unknown): SSUC Re 129. Lo Valdes, Cajón del Maipo, Metropolitan Region, Chile. 33°51'S 70°03'W: **SSUC Re 363**. El Yeso Reservoir, Cajón del Maipo, Metropolitan Region, Chile. 33°39'S 70°03'W: MNHNCL 403–404, SSUC Re 559.
- Liolaemus sp.*: Alto Huemul, Sierras de Bellavista, O'Higgins Region, Chile: MNHNCL 4081–4082.