

A new species of *Liolaemus* (Reptilia: Iguanidae) from San Guillermo National Park, western Argentina

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Abstract

A new species of Iguanidae Liolaemini lizard from the San Guillermo National Park in western Argentina, is described. The new species is a member of the *Liolaemus darwini* complex within the monophyletic *boulengeri* species group. It is distinguished by its small body size, relatively long tail, low number of scales around midbody, dorsal scales moderately keeled, preloacal pores only in male, bulged patch of enlarged scales on the proximal posterior surface of the thigh in both sexes, dorsal pattern lacking of light vertebral or dorsolateral stripes, antehumeral fold without black pigment in female but greyish in male, a prescapular dark dot dorsal to antehumeral fold in both sexes, and postscapular spot absent. The new species is terrestrial, living in habitats with gravel and sandy soil in an Andean Monte landscape with sparse vegetation, above 2270 meters of altitude.

Key words: *Liolaemus cinereus* sp. nov., Iguanidae, Squamata, Reptilia, Andean fauna, Argentina

Introduction

The number of described species in the South American genus *Liolaemus* as of this writing surpasses 180, including the first known case of unisexuality among Iguanians (Baldo *et al.* 2005). For this genus of small to moderate-sized lizards several infrageneric arrangements, both phenetic and phylogenetic, have been recognized (Cei 1986, 1993; Etheridge 1995; Laurent 1983, 1985; Schulte II *et al.* 2000). One of these assemblages is the *boulengeri* group, diagnosed by the presence of a patch of enlarged spinose scales on the posteromedial surface of the thigh, bulged out in adult males due to hypertrophy of the underlying musculature (Etheridge 1995).