



A new species of *Phymaturus* from rocky outcrops in the central steppe of Rio Negro province, Patagonia Argentina (Reptilia: Iguania: Liolaemidae)

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Abstract

A new *Phymaturus* species called *Phymaturus ceii*, in the honour of the late Professor José Miguel Ceii, is described in the present study. The new species is a member of the “*Phymaturus patagonicus*” group from Patagonia. It lives at about 1200 m of altitude in a volcanic rocky habitat near to El Cuy plateau, in the central steppe of Rio Negro province, Argentina. The new species and the closely related *P. patagonicus* are morphologically compared, and its distribution and natural history are pointed out.

Key words: *Phymaturus ceii*, Liolaemidae, Patagonian Reptiles, Rocky Lizard, taxonomy

Resumen

Una nueva especie de *Phymaturus* denominada *Phymaturus ceii*, en honor al Profesor Dr. J.M. Ceii se describe en este trabajo. La nueva especie pertenece al “grupo *Phymaturus patagonicus*” de Patagonia. *Phymaturus ceii* se encuentra a una altitud de aproximadamente 1200 m, en roquedales volcánicos vecinos a la Meseta de El Cuy, estepa central de la Provincia de Río Negro, Argentina. La nueva especie se compara morfológicamente con *P. patagonicus*, cercanamente relacionada, y se aportan datos de distribución e historia natural.

Palabras claves: *Phymaturus ceii*, Liolaemidae, Reptiles Patagónicos, Lagarto de Rocas, taxonomía

Introduction

Phymaturus comprises a group of iguanian lizards inhabiting rocky places of Patagonian plateaus and cordilleran slopes of the Andes, both eastern and western sides of Argentina and Chile. The genus has increased quickly in number of species since Donoso Barros (1966) and Peters and Donoso Barros (1970) up to these days, from only one species with two forms, to about 19 species at present. Of these, only two species are found in Chile and the rest of them in Argentina (Chebez *et al.* 2005; Scolaro 2005, 2006).

According to Etheridge (1995), the genus, now included in the Liolaemidae, recognizes two groups of species based on morphological characters. The *palluma* (= *flagellifer*, Ceii & Scolaro 2006) group comprises actually a total of eight forms: *P. flagellifer (palluma)* (Molina 1782), *P. mallimacci* Ceii 1980, *P. punae* Ceii, Etheridge and Videla 1983, *P. antofagastensis* Pereyra 1985 and *P. adrianae* (Pereyra 1992, *sensu* Ceii and