



A new *Petracola* and re-description of *P. ventrimaculatus* (Squamata: Gymnophthalmidae)

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Abstract

We describe *Petracola waka* **sp. nov.** and re-describe the poorly known *P. ventrimaculatus*, both high-Andean gymnophthalmids from northern Peru. The new species is diagnosed by gracile habitus, smooth dorsal scales, an anterior superciliary that extends onto the dorsum, absence of loreal, three genials, 36–49 transverse dorsal scale rows, 23–28 transverse ventral scale rows, 0–7 femoral pores, absence of subocular-labial fusion, and a color pattern consisting of dark spots or fine lines or bands on a pale brown background. *Petracola waka* is known from the middle *Río Marañón* and Cajamarca-Cajabamba basin (*Río Crisnejos* drainage) from small isolated syngamic systems at 2650–2900 m and is parapatrically distributed with respect to *P. ventrimaculatus*, which occurs at higher elevations.

Key words: Andes, lizard, new species, Peru, Reptilia

Introduction

Proctoporus ventrimaculatus Boulenger, 1900 was described on the basis of a single specimen from Cajamarca, Peru. Seven decades later Uzzell (1970) erected the *P. ventrimaculatus* group to accommodate the single species, which was known at that time from two specimens. Uzzell's (1970) taxonomic arrangement intended to reflect the divergence of *P. ventrimaculatus* and uncertainty about relationships with congeners, and was based partly on the presence of an anterior superciliary that extends onto the dorsal surface of the head (a condition that might also be described as a fusion of the anterior supraocular and the anterior superciliary). Doan and Castoe (2005) named *Petracola* for the *Proctoporus ventrimaculatus* group to correct the polyphyly of *Proctoporus sensu lato*, which was revealed by phylogenetic analysis of molecular data (Castoe *et al.*, 2004), and placed *Proctoporus labioocularis* (Köhler & Lehr, 2004) in the new genus based on its possession of smooth dorsal scales and low femoral pore counts (less than 6 per side). Relatively large series at the University of Kansas, thought by Kizirian (1996: 148) to represent an undescribed species, are similar to known *Petracola* in some diagnostic features including the presence of smooth dorsal scales and an anterior superciliary that extends onto the dorsal surface of the head. Based primarily on the KU material, we herein describe a new taxon that is parapatrically distributed with respect to *P. ventrimaculatus*. Little has been published on *P. ventrimaculatus* (Uzzell, 1970; Köhler & Lehr, 2004; Doan & Castoe, 2005) since Boulenger's (1900) laconic description; therefore, we also re-describe the holotype and report variation in that species. Methods and additional material examined are as in Kizirian (1996). Museums acronyms follow Leviton *et al.* (1985).