



More notes on Alfredo Dugès' names for Mexican reptilian taxa

OSCAR FLORES-VILLELA¹, VICTOR HUGO REYNOSO² & GLORIA MAGAÑA-COTA³

¹Museo de Zoología Fac. de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, A.P. 70–399, México D.F. 04510, México. E-mail: ofvq@servidor.unam.mx

²Colección Nacional de Anfibios y Reptiles, Departamento de Zoología Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México D.F. 04510, México. E-mail: vrey noso@ibiologia.unam.mx

³Museo de Historia Natural Alfredo Dugès, Universidad de Guanajuato, Lascuráin de Retana No. 5 Col. Centro, Guanajuato, Guanajuato 36000, México. E-mail: gemc@quijote.ugto.mx

Alfredo Dugès, considered the father of Mexican herpetology (Smith & Smith 1969) lived in the city of Guanajuato, México, where he formed a cabinet of natural history, today the Museo Alfredo Dugès. During the course of an investigation dealing with his life and contributions we have restudied his collections and contributions to Mexican herpetology. Dugès proposed 41 taxonomic names in herpetology. One of these names was considered a *nomen nudum* by Smith and Smith (1969), 10 were erected for new genera, two for new subgenera, 24 for new species, and four for new subspecies. Five names — three genera and two species — do not belong to the Mexican fauna (Flores-Villela *et al.* in prep). Previous comments on A. Dugès' names have been made by Smith (1968, 1969) and Smith and Smith (1969).

After the revision of Smith and Smith (1969), three names remain to be clarified and their proper status is here evaluated. When Dugès (1883) described *Hemidactylus navarri*, he commented (p. 312; translation ours): “The singular characteristic of the back of the knee in the largest one of these individuals prompted me to create a new subgenus with the name of *Chalinocnemis* (leg with a hold) or *Spasmocnemis* (linked leg) that would recall this anatomical peculiarity, but upon examination of the younger specimens I was unable to find such a character. Would this be a sexual difference or individual characteristic? It is necessary to have more specimens and compare them, and then decide if there is a reason to accept the name I wanted to introduce to science.” Thus, Dugès (1883) mentioned the names but did not adopt them and clearly did not formally propose either *Chalinocnemis* or *Spasmocnemis* as valid names. Under Article 11.5 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN): “To be available, a name must be used as valid for a taxon when proposed ...” Accordingly, these two names are unavailable and this should be noted whenever they are included in a list of synonyms of the gekkonid genus *Gehyra* (e.g., Bauer 1994, contra Smith and Taylor 1950).

The third name, *Sceloporus westphalii*, was proposed by Dugès (1877). About this name Dugès stated (p. 30; translation ours) in the description of *Sceloporus intermedius* (= *S. dugesi*): “I wanted to give it the name *Sc. Westphalii*, ... but it was not possible since I had already named it with the first name [*S. intermedius*] in the list that I published in the first issue of ‘La Naturaleza’.” Here Dugès makes reference to his work in *La Naturaleza* (1869), where he listed *Tropidolepis intermedius* from Guanajuato. Although Dugès (1877) gives a description of the species, he mentioned that *S. westphalii* should not be used with the description published for *S. intermedius*. Thus, as for *Chalinocnemis* and *Spasmocnemis*, this name was not considered valid by Dugès (1877) when he proposed it and under Article 11.5 of the Code it is unavailable. As such it is not available as a substitute name for *S. intermedius* as was suggested by Smith and Taylor (1950), nor should it be considered occupied as stated by Bell *et al.* (2003).

In conclusion, Dugès proposed 41 names of which four should be considered *nomina nuda*, five do not pertain to the fauna of México and are not dealt with here; of the remaining 32, 15 are currently considered valid (Table 1).

Acknowledgements

We want to thank H. M. Smith and A. Bauer for his suggestions and advice; J. A. Campbell for his support, and CONCYTEG, Guanajuato, for support during this research on A. Dugès, grant GTO–2007–C02–68974.