



## A new species of *Liolaemus* of the *Liolaemus montanus* section (Iguania: Liolaemidae) from Northwestern Argentina

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### Abstract

We provide evidence for a new species of *Liolaemus*, which can be included in the *L. dorbignyi* group within the *montanus* series. *Liolaemus vulcanus* **sp. nov.** was previously confused with *L. dorbignyi*, but it exhibits states of character which allow us to differentiate the two taxa. The main differences with *L. dorbignyi* are in the color pattern and in the dorsal scales. *Liolaemus vulcanus* **sp. nov.** is saxicolous and it inhabits in rocky hills in the Puna regions of Northwestern Argentina. It is distributed in localities in Antofagasta de la Sierra department in Catamarca Province, Argentina .

**Key words:** *Liolaemus*, *montanus* series, new species, Northwestern Argentina, Puna highlands

### Resumen

Describimos una nueva especie de *Liolaemus*, que puede ser incluida en el grupo de *L. dorbignyi*, dentro de la serie *montanus*. *Liolaemus vulcanus* **sp. nov.** estaba previamente confundida con *L. dorbignyi*, pero exhibe estados de carácter que permiten distinguir a estos dos taxa. Las principales diferencias con *L. dorbignyi* se encuentran en el patrón dorsal de coloración y en las escamas del dorso. *Liolaemus vulcanus* **sp. nov.** es una especie saxícola y habita en zonas rocosas de la Puna del Noroeste argentino. Se distribuye en varias localidades del departamento Antofagasta de la Sierra en la Provincia de Catamarca, Argentina.

### Introduction

*Liolaemus* is a genus of South American lizards composed of 223 species (Lobo *et al.*, 2010a), inhabiting from Tierra del Fuego (South Argentina) to Central Perú, occupying localities in Chile, Bolivia and Paraguay, and coasts of Brazil and Uruguay. *Liolaemus* was splitted into to subgenera (Laurent, 1983; 1985): *Liolaemus sensu stricto* (Chileno group) and *Eulaemus* (Argentino group). Later, Etheridge (1995) proposed a phylogenetic taxonomy of *Liolaemus* and its two closely related genus (*Ctenoblepharys* and *Phymaturus*), proposing informal groups names for the major clades of *Liolaemus*. One of those is the *signifer* group which resembles the *Eulaemus* subgenus of Laurent (1983, 1985). Schulte *et al.* (2000) performed a molecular based phylogeny of the genus including 60 terminal taxa representing most of the groups proposed within *Liolaemus*. Schulte *et al.* (2000)'s results (see also, Espinoza *et al.*, 2004) proposed names for the nested hierarchy of groups (genus (subgenera (sections (series)))). The subgenera and sections founded by Schulte *et al.* (2000) are congruent with the major clades proposed by Laurent (1983; 1985) and Etheridge (1995, See also Lobo *et al.*, 2010b – table 1). The *Eulaemus* subgenus of Schulte *et al.* (2000) is equivalent to Laurent's *Eulaemus* and Etheridge's *signifer* group. Inside *Eulaemus*, Schulte *et al.* (2000) proposed the *montanus* section which resembles to Etheridge's *montanus* group and Laurent's *fitzingeri* + *signifer* groups. Finally, within the *montanus* section Schulte *et al.* (2000) found the *montanus* series + *boulengeri*