



Taxonomic status of *Anolis baccatus* Bocourt 1873 (Reptilia, Squamata, Polychrotidae)

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Abstract

The examination of the holotype of *Anolis baccatus* Bocourt 1873 revealed that it is a representative of *A. carolinensis* Voigt 1832 and, therefore, this name is synonymized with the latter epithet.

Key words: Reptilia, Polychrotidae, *Anolis baccatus*, *Anolis carolinensis*, synonymy

Resumen

El estudio del holotipo de *Anolis baccatus* Bocourt 1873 reveló que es un representante de *A. carolinensis* Voigt 1832, y consecuentemente, este nombre es sinonimizado con el último epíteto.

Introduction

Bocourt (1873) described a new species (*Anolis baccatus*) based on a subadult female specimen (now MNHN 1126) from “Mexique” that he illustrated (dorsal head view, Pl. 14, fig. 14) and for which he gave a detailed description. According to the original description, the specimen was collected by Auguste Sallé who was a member of the “Commission scientifique du Mexique.” Since its original description, *A. baccatus* has remained an enigmatic nominal species that has been mentioned sporadically in the literature (e.g., Boulenger 1885, Günther 1885). Barbour (1934) referred a single Guatemalan specimen to this species. Smith & Taylor (1950:62) included *A. baccatus* in their checklist of the reptiles of Mexico exclusive of the snakes, but stated that its range is “uncertain. The specimen reported from Sepaquite, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala (Barbour, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 77, 1934, p. 124), is actually *A. sericeus* (fide L. C. Stuart, in litt.). No definite Mexican records are known.” Etheridge (1959) listed the species but did not examine any specimens. Lieb (2001), in his taxonomic overview of the anoles of Mexico, did not mention *A. baccatus*, but in an earlier work (Lieb 1995:146), he stated that this species has “not been studied enough to be allied [associated] with any extant population in México.” In their classification of anoles, Savage & Guyer (1989:111) referred to this species as “*Norops* of uncertain status”, an assignment that was later repeated by Nicholson (2002:114).

I had the privilege of examining the holotype of *Anolis baccatus* and with this note I attempt to clarify the identity of this nominal species. I provide a description, photographs of external morphology, and an x-ray image of the type specimen.

Material and methods

A list of the comparative specimens examined is provided in the Appendix. Abbreviations for museum collections follow those of Leviton et al. (1985). Nomenclature of scale characters follows that of Köhler (2008). Scale sizes