



Article

A new species of *Homonota* (Reptilia: Squamata: Gekkota: Phyllodactylidae) from the Ventania mountain range, Southeastern Pampas, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina

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Abstract

A new species of lizard genus *Homonota* from southern Buenos Aires Province, Argentina is described. *Homonota williamsii* **sp. nov.** was previously considered as part of the *H. darwinii* species, but differs by a combination of characters from the nominal species and from other species of the genus. Its geographic distribution is restricted to an isolated mountain system not connected with other habitats suitable for *Homonota darwinii*

Key words: South America; Reptiles; Gecko, *Homonota darwinii*; new mountain species; Ventana Mountains.

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de lagartija del género *Homonota* del sur de la provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Homonota williamsii* **sp. nov.** fue considerada como parte de la especie *Homonota darwinii*, pero se diferencia de la especie nominal y de otras especies del género por una combinación de caracteres. Su distribución geográfica se limita a un sistema de montañas aisladas, no conectadas con otros hábitats adecuados para *Homonota darwinii*.

Palabras Claves: América del Sur; Reptiles; Gecko; *Homonota darwinii*; nueva especie de montaña; Sierra de la Ventana.

Introduction

New World lizards of the genus *Homonota* are endemic to South America, occurring throughout the Monte, Chaco, Espinal, Patagonian, Andes, and Pampa's biomes in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay (Kluge 1964; Peters & Donoso-Barros 1970; Cei 1986, 1993; Abdala 1997, 1998). Almost all *Homonota* species are nocturnal lizards found in a variety of habitats ranging from rocky environments, sedimentary river cliffs, Mediterranean or coastal dunes, shrubby flatlands to urban areas; all known species are oviparous and insectivorous (Cei 1986, 1993; Abdala 1997). At the present time (following Abdala 1997, Cacciali *et al.* 2007), the genus *Homonota* contains eight described species: *Homonota fasciata* Duméril and Bibron; *H. darwinii* Boulenger, *H. whitii* Boulenger, *H. borellii* Peracca, *H. uruguayensis* Vaz-Ferreira and Sierra de Soriano, *H. underwoodi* Kluge, *H. andicola* Cei, and *H. rupicola* Cacciali *et al.*, and a still enigmatic subspecies of *H. darwinii* (*H. darwinii macrocephala*) described by Cei (1978b) from northern Argentina (Fig. 1). Only *Homonota uruguayensis* and *H. rupicola* are not found in Argentina. Here we describe a new species of *Homonota* from the Ventania mountain range of southern Buenos Aires Province, central Argentina, that was previously considered by different authors as an isolated population of *Homonota darwinii* (Boulenger 1885; Koslowsky 1898; Lieberman 1939; Kluge 1964) or *H. borellii* (Gallardo 1966; Peters & Donoso-Barros 1970; Williams 1991, Abdala 1997).