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A new Andean lizard of the genus *Potamites* (Sauria, Gymnophthalmidae) from Manu National Park, southeastern Peru

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Abstract

We describe a new lizard of the genus *Potamites* from elevations of 1000–2100 m in the montane forests of the Cordillera de Paucartambo and the upper Kosñipata valley, Region of Cusco, Peru. The new species differs from other species of *Potamites* by having scattered keeled scales on dorsum, an undivided frontonasal and absence of femoral pores in females.

Key words: Squamata, Gymnophthalmidae, Andes, Cusco, stream, cloud forest, taxonomy

Resumen

Describimos una nueva especie de lagartija del género *Potamites* de los bosques montanos de la Cordillera de Paucartambo y de la parte alta del valle del río Kosñipata, Región de Cusco, Perú, entre los 1000 y 2100 metros de elevación. La nueva especie se diferencia de las otras especies de *Potamites* por tener escamas quilladas desordenadas en el dorso, escama frontonasal no dividida y ausencia de poros femorales en las hembras.

Palabras clave: Squamata, Gymnophthalmidae, Andes, Cusco, riachuelo, bosque nublado, taxonomía

Introduction

The genus *Potamites* was described by Doan & Castoe (2005) and currently contains seven species: *Potamites apodemus* (Uzzell, 1966) from western Costa Rica and Panama (Lotzkat et al, 2012), *P. cochranæ* (Burt & Burt, 1931) from Ecuador and northern Peru (Catenazzi & Venegas 2013), *P. ecpleopus* (Cope, 1876) from Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador (Uzzell, 1966; Duellman, 1978; Avila-Pires, 1995; Dirksen and de la Riva, 1999; Torres-Carvajal, 2001), *P. juruazensis* from Río Juruá in Acre state, Brazil (Avila-Pires & Vitt, 1998), *P. montanicola* from Cusco and Ayacucho, Peru (Chávez & Vásquez, 2012), *P. ocellatus* from Rurrenabaque, Amazonian forests of Bolivia (Sinitsin, 1930) and *P. strangulatus* (Cope, 1868) from the Amazon lowlands and Andean foothills of Ecuador and Peru (Uzzell, 1966). Among the four species of *Potamites* that have been recorded from Peru (*P. cochranæ*, *P. ecpleopus*, *P. montanicola* and *P. strangulatus*), only *P. montanicola* occurs in mountain forests up to 2000 m, in the upper Urubamba and Apurímac drainages in the Regions of Cusco and Ayacucho (Chávez & Vasquez 2012). During herpetological expeditions in Manu National Park and the adjacent Kosñipata valley (Catenazzi *et al.* 2011), Cusco, we collected specimens of a high-elevation *Potamites* whose males possess a striking red ring around the eyes, a character shared only with some individuals of *P. strangulatus*. However, in *P. strangulatus* the red ring is incomplete, whereas males of the high-elevation species from Cusco have complete rings. Here we describe this new species.

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