



***Anolis marsupialis* Taylor 1956, a valid species from southern Pacific Costa Rica (Reptilia, Squamata, Dactyloidae)**

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Abstract

The examination of the holotype of *Anolis marsupialis* Taylor 1956 along with recently collected specimens reveals that *A. marsupialis* is a valid species. It differs from its closest congeners *A. humilis* Peters 1863 and *A. quaggulus* Cope 1885, in male dewlap coloration, scalation, body size, and hemipenial morphology. These findings are supported by preliminary molecular genetic analysis.

Key words: *Anolis humilis*, *A. marsupialis*, *A. quaggulus*, synonymy, taxonomy

Introduction

In 1956, Edward H. Taylor described *Anolis humilis marsupialis* based on a male holotype (KU 40893) and seven paratypes (KU 40889–92, 40894–96) from “about 15 km. WSW of San Isidro del General along the Dominical Road.”, a collecting site situated in the Fila Costeña. Savage (1974) provided the following comments on the type locality of *A. marsupialis*: “1.5 km NW Alfombra, Cantón de Pérez Zeledón, Provincia de San José: 970 m. E.H. Taylor collected in this vicinity on several occasions. The swamp and meadow that he mentions at 15 km (by road) WSW of San Isidro de El General drains into the Río Pacurito and lies east of the road to Dominical. Premontane Pluvial bioclimate.”

This taxon was treated as a subspecies of *A. humilis* Peters 1863 by Peters & Donoso-Barros (1970) but was placed in synonymy of the latter species by Savage & Villa (1986), Savage (2002), and Köhler *et al.* (2003, 2006). Wilson & Johnson (2010) briefly discussed this issue, and, just as Sasa *et al.* (2010), retained *A. marsupialis* in the synonymy of *A. humilis*. Bolaños & Savage (2009) and Bolaños *et al.* (2011) treated this form as a full species, pointing to Taylor (1956) for a diagnosis.

Recent field work in the area of the type locality of *Anolis humilis marsupialis* produced additional specimens that allow for reconsideration of this taxonomic issue.

Material and methods

Before preservation, the dewlap of male individuals was extended with small forceps, and the extended dewlap was photographed in life. Sampled specimens were euthanized by injection of T61 (Intervet Deutschland GmbH, Unterschleißheim, Germany). Tissue samples were taken from the forearm, tail tip, or liver and stored in Eppendorf tubes filled with 96% ethanol. Samples were stored at -20 °C after return from the field. In males, hemipenes were everted by manually applying gentle pressure to the base of the tail. This, however, results only in partial eversion of the organs. In order to reach full eversion, 70% ethanol was injected into the hemipenis pockets just posterior to

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