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Anelytropsis papillosus Cope, 1885 (Squamata: Dibamidae), an overlooked species in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico

The family Dibamidae is comprised of legless lizards distributed in Mexico, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippine Islands, islands of the Sunda Shelf, and New Guinea (Pough et al., 2004). In Mexico, this family is represented by a single species, *Anelytropsis papillosus*. This rare burrowing lizard is small (200–500 mm in total length), limbless, contains vestigial eyes covered with a scale, and lacks external ears openings (Campbell, 1974); small, flaplike hind limbs, however, are present in males, and females are limbless (Pough et al., 2004) (see detailed description in Cope, 1885, 1900; Smith, 1935; Axtell, 1958). Due to the lizard's fossorial habits, little is known about its ecology, including its geographic distribution. This endemic lizard has been reported from central Veracruz (Cope, 1885, 1900; Gadow, 1905), eastern San Luis Potosí (Smith, 1935; Campbell, 1974), southwestern Tamaulipas (Axtell, 1958; Farr et al., 2007; García-Padilla and Farr, 2010), northeastern Querétaro (Campbell, 1974; Thomas, 1974), and Hidalgo (Zaldivar-Riverón et al., 2008) (Fig. 1). Because of its ecological versatility, Campbell (1974) expected its geographic distribution to increase farther westward in the states of Hidalgo and Nuevo León, and Axtell (1958) speculated the likely presence of the species as far south as northeastern Oaxaca.

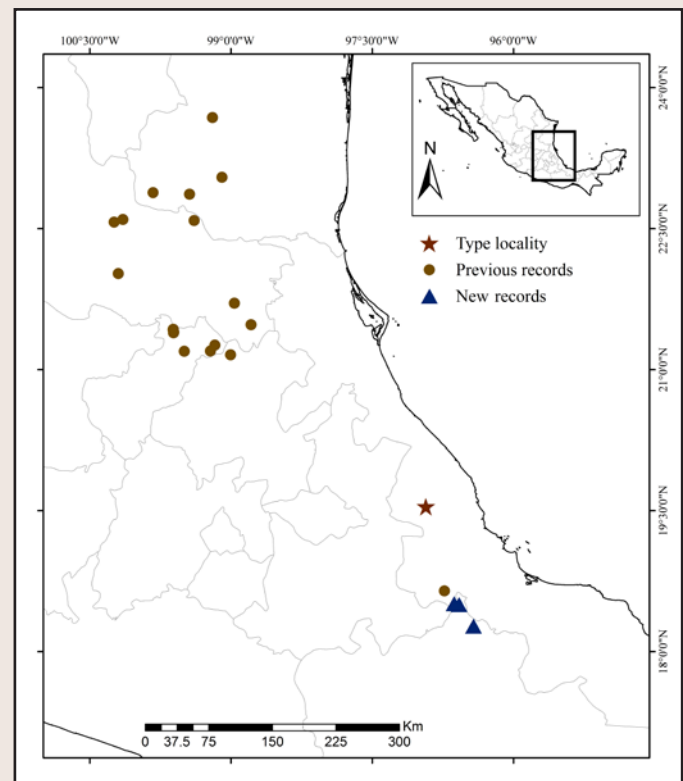


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Anelytropsis papillosus* showing the previous records, the type locality, and the new records from the state of Oaxaca, Mexico.

While examining the distribution of legless lizards in Mexico, one of us (JV) became aware of the existence of three specimens of *A. papillosus* that were collected in northern Oaxaca over two decades ago (Fig. 1). Surprisingly, these specimens remained unreported in the literature, although they were deposited at the Florida Museum of Natural History of the University of Florida. Steven Christman found the first specimen (UF 86705; Fig. 2) on 11 January 1990, under a log on limestone mountain ridge 4.0 km NW of Temascal (= San Miguel Soyaltepec), as well as the second specimen (UF 86706; Fig. 3) on 12 January 1990, 4.0 km SW of Acatlán (= Acatlán de Pérez Figueroa) (microhabitat information not available); Fred Thompson collected the third specimen (UF 86707; Fig. 4) in a limestone ridge on 22 October 1992, 1.0 km SW of Aserradero (= El Aserradero). Thus, these specimens represent the first reports of the species for the state of Oaxaca, and extend the geographic distribution of this species ca. 17.0 (record near Acatlán), 22.0 (record near Aserradero), and 55.0 (record near Temascal) km E from the closest reported locality in Motzorongo, Veracruz (Gadow, 1905). These three localities lie in the Planicie Costera del Golfo (PCG) physiographic province of Oaxaca (Mata-Silva et al., 2015).

With respect to the conservation status of *A. papillosus*, the IUCN system (Canseco-Márquez et al., 2007) regards this species as Least Concern, the SEMARNAT system (2010) as threatened, and the EVS system placed this species in the medium vulnerability category (score = 10) (Wilson et al., 2013). Nonetheless, we believe that the conservation status of *A. papillosus* is subject to change as more specimens are found and more information on the distribution and natural history of this species becomes available.

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Fig. 2. *Anelytropsis papillosus* (UF 86705) from Temascal (= San Miguel Soyaltepec), Municipio de San Miguel Soyaltepec, Oaxaca, Mexico. © Kenneth L. Krysko



Fig. 3. *Anelytropsis papillosus* (UF 86706) from Acatlán de Pérez Figueroa, Municipio de Acatlán de Pérez Figueroa, Oaxaca, Mexico. © Kenneth L. Krysko



Fig. 4. *Anelytropsis papillosus* (UF 86707) from Aserradero, Municipio de Acatlán de Pérez Figueroa Oaxaca.

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Family Gekkonoidae

***Hemidactylus frenatus* Duméril & Bibron, 1836.** MEXICO: ZACATECAS: Municipio de Valparaiso, Valparaiso (22.769760°N, -103.567070°W; WGS 84); elev. 1,886 m; 21 October 2015; Jorge A. Bañuelos-Alamillo and Ilse Yasareth Trujillo de la Torre. The lizard was found on the wall of a building. A photo voucher is deposited at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDSNH_HerpPC_05302; Fig. 1). This exotic lizard represents a new state record for Zacatecas, extending the distribution ca. 163.5 km (airline) NW from closest known locality in Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes (Quintero-Díaz et al., 2008).