

First records of *Ameivula abalosi* (Cabrera, 2012) (Squamata: Teiidae) for the province of Córdoba, Argentina

Mario R. Cabrera^{1,3,4}, Suelem Muniz Leão^{2,3}, Nicolás Pelegrin^{2,3}

¹ Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales, Museo de Zoología, Avenida Vélez Sarsfield 299, X5000JJC, Córdoba, Argentina.

² Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales, Centro de Zoología Aplicada, Rondeau 798, X5000AVP, Córdoba, Argentina.

³ Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal (IDEA), CONICET/UNC. Córdoba, Argentina.

Localities— República Argentina. Province of Córdoba, Totoral Department, Las Peñas (30°35'S; 64°01'W, 502 m a.s.l.). Date: March 4th 2006. Collected by M. Kufner, V. Briguera, D. Tamburini, C. Cebollada Pütz, M. Basso and E. Ruiz de los Llanos. Voucher: MZUC (exCBC 674), deposited in the Museo de Zoología, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (Fig. 1A); Tulumba Department, about 10 km west from Lucio V. Mansilla (29°45'7"S; 64°46'29"W, 182 m a.s.l.). Dates: December 3rd, and December 12th 2015. Collected by N. Pelegrin and S. M. Leão. Vouchers: LECO 00578 and 00579, two specimens, deposited in the collection of Laboratorio de Ecología y Conservación de la Herpetofauna (IDEA-UNC) (Fig. 1B).

Comments— *Ameivula abalosi* distinguishes from the other nine species of the genus (*Ameivula cipoensis*, *A. confusioniba*, *A. jalapensis*, *A. mumbuca*, *A. nativo*, *A. nigrigula*, *A. ocellifera*, *A. pyrrhogularis*, and *A. xacriaba*; Goicoechea *et al.*, 2016) by the combination, among other character states, of five superciliary scales, low number of femoral pores (15-19 in total) and presence in males of erected thorn-like scales along the inferoposterior half of the calf (see inset in Fig. 1B). In Argentina it was reported for the provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, Formosa, La Rioja, Salta, Santiago del Estero, and San Juan (Cabrera, 2012; Gómez Alés *et al.*, 2017), plus an unconfirmed old citation (as *Cnemidophorus ocellifer*) for the province of Catamarca by Koslowsky (1898). Presence in neighbor countries include records in Paraguay for the Alto Paraguay, Boquerón, Canindeyú, Central, Concepción, Itapúa, Misiones, Ñeembucú, Presidente Hayes, and San Pedro Departments (Cacciali *et al.*, 2016, and references

therein), and Bolivia (Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz, and Tarija Departments; Cabrera *et al.*, 2016) (Fig. 2).

With the lizard from Las Peñas we now extend the distribution of the species as previously known about 180 km to the south from the nearest localities at Santiago del Estero province, and 195 km to the east from the nearest record for the species at La Rioja province, into areas of the Chaco in the province of Córdoba, at central Argentina, increasing up to 29 the number of lizard species reported for

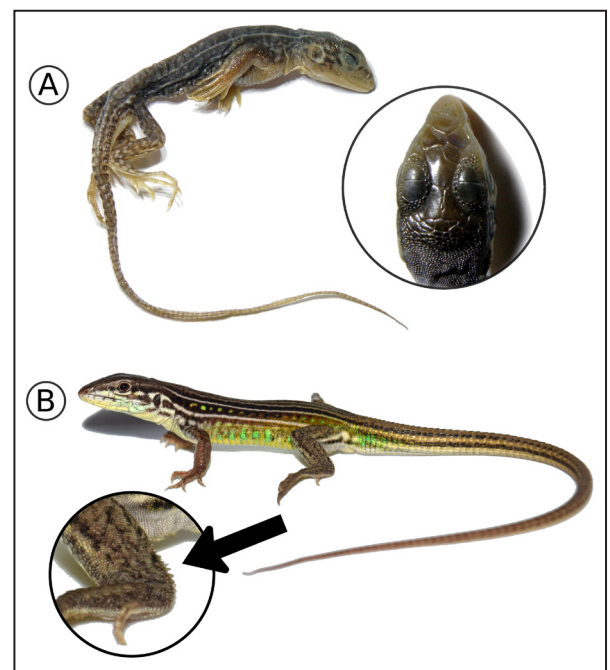


Figure 1. (A) Juvenile specimen of *Ameivula abalosi* (MZUC, exCBC 674) in entire view, and dorsal aspect of its head (upper inset) showing notorious asymmetry in several scales and marked reduction of parietals; (B) Adult male of *A. abalosi* (LECOH 00578) from Lucio V. Mansilla, Córdoba, pictured in life. The lower inset illustrates the erected thorn-like scales of the calf (arrow).

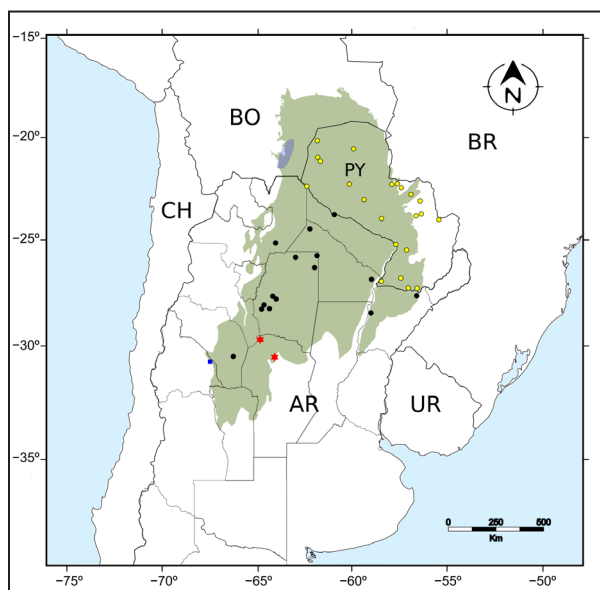


Figure 2. Map showing known distribution for *Ameivula abalosi*. Black dots are records from Cabrera (2012); yellow dots, records from Cacciali *et al.* (2016); the blue square, the record from Gómez Alés *et al.* (2017), and the red stars, the new ones included in this work. Hatched surface indicates the area of Bolivia where the species has been seen or photographed (Cabrera *et al.*, 2016). The green area represents the Chaco biome. AR, Argentina; BO, Bolivia, BR, Brazil; CH, Chile; PY, Paraguay; UR, Uruguay.

this province by Cabrera (2015).

The voucher MZUC (exCBC 674) is a juvenile (SVL= 40.7 mm) with anomalies in its cephalic scutellation, that fell in a trap arrangement placed where a soybean culture parcel limited with Chaco forest (Ruiz de los Llanos, pers. comm.) during field collects to evaluate influence of agricultural expansion on vertebrate diversity (Cebollada Pütz *et al.*, 2012). The vouchers LECOHO 00578 and 00579 are two adult males (LECOHO 00579: SVL= 65.0 mm) captured by pitfall trapping in a Chaco forest area next to Salinas Grandes, at northwestern Córdoba. There the predominant vegetation comprises spiny shrubs and cacti, typical of the transition between the Arid Chaco forest and the salt plain of Salinas Grandes.

All localities where *A. abalosi* has been found belong either to the Semiarid, Arid, or Humid Chaco subregions *sensu* Naumann (2006). To the present, no individuals of this species have been confirmed for the Chaco Serrano (mountain chaco). Tio Vallejo and Miranda (1984) cited *Cnemidophorus ocellifer* for Tanti (MACN 10247), Cruz Chica (MACN 29625), and Cruz Grande (MACN 21446), three mountainous villages of Córdoba province. However, revised by one of us (MRC) in 2002, the

specimens MACN 10247 (two individuals) and MACN 29625 correspond to *Contomastix serrana*, undescribed by 1984. The MACN 21446 could not be found in the collection. Therefore, this work means the first vouchered report of the genus *Ameivula* for Córdoba province and two new records of it for Argentina.

Acronyms— CBC= Colección Biológica del Centro de Ecología y Recursos Naturales Renovables Dr. Ricardo Luti (FCEFYN, UNC); LECOHO= Laboratorio de Ecología y Conservación de la Herpetofauna, Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal (IDEA-UNC); MACN= Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires; MZUC= Museo de Zoología de la Universidad Nacional de Córdoba.

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