

New records of *Liolaemus grosseorum* Etheridge, 2001 (Squamata, Liolaemini) in Neuquén and La Pampa Provinces, Argentina

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Localities— Argentina, Neuquén Province, Picún Leufú Department, Provincial Road 20, 43.5 km NW junction with National Road 237 (39° 22' 13.7"

S; 69° 41' 19.8" W, WGS84, 573 m elevation). 02 December 2007. Collected by L.J. Avila, M.F. Breitman & N. Feltrin. Adult female (SVL = 50.3 mm) under



Figure 1. Dorsal and lateral view of the three specimens of *Liolaemus grosseorum* showing the characteristic diagnostic coloration patterns of the species. Black arrow marks antehumeral black spot.

accession number LJAMM-CNP 8692.

La Pampa Province, Loventué Department, Provincial Road 10, 16 km W entrance to Victorica, (36° 14' 14.47" S; 65° 16' 58.0" W, WGS84, 330 m elevation). 04 March 1999. Collected by L.J. Avila & M. Morando. Adult male (SVL = 48.8 mm) under accession number LJAMM-CNP 1492.

Chalileo Department, Provincial Road 10, Km mark 234, 105 km W entrance to Victorica, 7.6 km W junction to Colonia Emilio Mitre (36° 20' 17.0" S; 66° 33' 00.0" W, WGS84, 311 m elevation). 04 March 1999. Collected by L.J. Avila and M. Morando. Juvenile male (SVL = 28.2 mm) under accession number LJAMM-CNP 1496.

Specimens are deposited at LJAMM herpetological collection of Instituto Patagónico para el Estudio de los Ecosistemas Continentales (IPEEC-CONICET).

Comments— *Liolaemus grosseorum* is a small liolaemid lizard described by Etheridge (2001) from a few localities of the San Rafael and Malargüe departments, in southern Mendoza province. This species can be distinguished from *L. darwini*, the other species of the group present in the study area, by the characteristic coloration dorsal pattern and the black antehumeral smudge bordered by white or yellow, among other characters (Etheridge 2001; see Fig. 1). Later, the species was cited for several localities in western La Pampa, northwestern Río Negro provinces (Avila *et al.*, 2002) and for northeastern Neuquén province (Avila *et al.*, 2008; Pérez *et al.*, 2011). In Neuquén province, *Liolaemus grosseorum* was found restricted to sandy environments of Añelo and Pehuenches departments north of Neuquén River valley where it is a common species in mediterranean active dunes or bushy areas with loose sandy soils.

Field surveys carried out along 10 years did not allow us to find this species between previously known localities and this new locality at Picún Leufú river valley. This new finding represents a new department record and a southwestern range extension into the Monte desert in Neuquén as well as the southernmost record for the species in Argentina. Our voucher is *circa* 100 km SW (airline) from the nearest known locality at Aguada Pichana outskirts (see Fig. 2 for previous and new records). Our record also represents the first record for this species south of the Neuquén-Negro rivers basin. Revision of the LJAMM-CNP collection allowed us to localize other

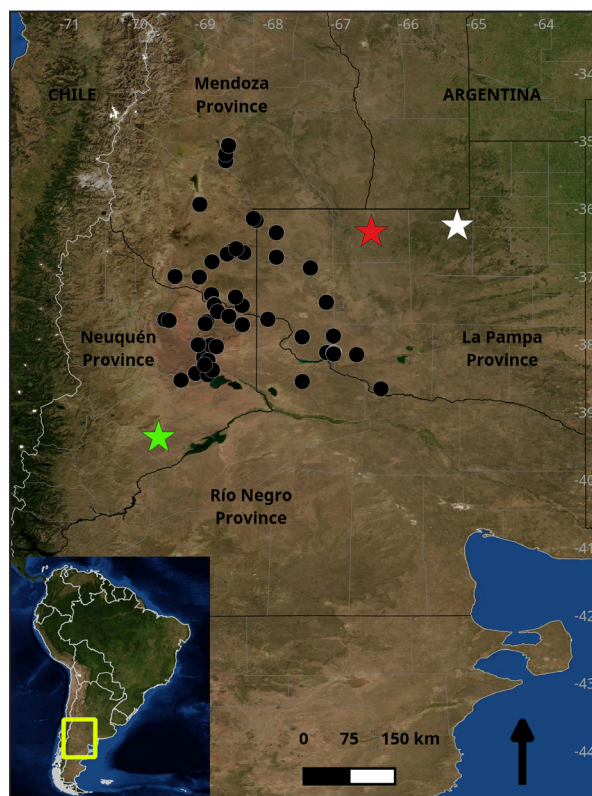


Figure 2. Map showing known distribution for *Liolaemus grosseorum*. Black dots are bibliographic and collection records. Green star: new record for Picún Leufú Department. White star: new record for Loventué Department. Red star: new record for Chalileo Department.

two new records from La Pampa province. Both localities are east of the Salado-Chadileuvú river basin when all previous records were restricted to the western bank. Both new records are around 200 km east of the easternmost record in the region.

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