

## A new Andean species of *Liolaemus* of the *darwinii* Complex (Reptilia: Iguanidae)

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### Abstract

A new species of Iguanidae Liolaeminae from the Parque Nacional San Guillermo, San Juan province in western Argentina, is described. The new species is member of the *Liolaemus darwinii* complex within the monophyletic *boulengeri* species group. It is characterized by small body size, long tail, relatively low number of scales around midbody, dorsal scales keeled, precloacal pores only in male, bulged patch of enlarged scales on the proximal posterior surface of the thigh in both sexes, and a dorsal color pattern in the male of 12–13 pairs of dark paravertebral spots and irregularly scattered light blue and white scales “speckled” on reddish brown ground. Both sexes lack of light vertebral or dorsolateral stripes. *Liolaemus* sp. nov. is terrestrial, dwelling on rocky gravel and sandy soil in a Monte landscape with sparse vegetation, and seems to have low population density.

**Key words:** *Liolaemus montanezi* sp. nov., Iguanidae, Squamata, Reptilia, Taxonomy, Parque Nacional San Guillermo, Argentina

### Introduction

The South American genus *Liolaemus* is a large taxon (over 175 described species and several currently being described) of small to moderate sized diurnal lizards, ranging from northern Peru southward through Bolivia, Chile, southern Paraguay and Argentina, and eastward up to the Atlantic coast of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, reaching the State of Rio de Janeiro as its northeastern limit of distribution (Avila 2003; Donoso-Barros 1966; Etheridge 2000; Etheridge and Espinoza 2000; Laurent 1998).

Several infrageneric arrangements has been proposed, including phenetic and phylogenetic groupings, species complexes, and formal subgenera (*e. g.*, Cei 1979, 1986;