



## A new species of night lizard of the genus *Lepidophyma* (Squamata: Xantusiidae) from southern Puebla, México

URI OMAR GARCÍA-VÁZQUEZ<sup>1,3</sup>, LUIS CANSECO-MÁRQUEZ<sup>1</sup> & JOSÉ LUIS AGUILAR-LÓPEZ<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratorio de Herpetología, Museo de Zoología, Departamento de Biología Evolutiva, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, A.P. 70-399, C. P. 04510, México, D. F., México

<sup>2</sup>Red de Biología y Conservación de Vertebrados, Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Carretera antigua a Coatepec Km. 2.5, Congregación El Haya, Xalapa Veracruz, México

<sup>3</sup>Corresponding author. E-mail: urigarcia@gmail.com

### Abstract

A new species of *Lepidophyma* is described from the Sierra Negra in southern Puebla. This new species is known only from the type locality and is characterized by a combination of several characters (number of dorsal scales, total of femoral pores, number of lateral tubercles, number the dorsal interwhorls separated the whorls, number of the paravertebral rows, number of the toe lamellae and number of gulars). It lives between rocks in remnants of Tropical Evergreen Forest. The description of this new species increases the number of species in the genus to 19.

**Key words:** *Lepidophyma zongolica* sp. nov., new species, Xantusiidae, México, Puebla

### Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de *Lepidophyma* para la Sierra Negra de Puebla. Esta nueva especie es conocida solo de la localidad tipo. La nueva especie se caracteriza por una combinación de diversos caracteres (número de escamas dorsales, total de poros femorales, número de tubérculos laterales, número de escamas pequeñas granulares de la cola separando las escamas grandes, número de hileras paravertebrales, número de laminillas del pie y número de escamas gulares). Habita en rocas, en áreas conservadas de bosque tropical perennifolio. Con la descripción de esta nueva especie, el género *Lepidophyma* posee ahora 19 especies.

### Introduction

The family Xantusiidae is composed by three genera: the monotypic genus *Cricosaura* restricted to Cuba, *Xantusia* distributed in southwestern US and northern México, with fourteen species (Bezy *et al.* 2008); and the larger genus *Lepidophyma*, composed of eighteen species (Bezy and Camarillo 2002; Canseco-Márquez *et al.* 2008) ranging from Nuevo León on eastern and Michoacán on western, México to Panamá.

Phylogenetic relationships between species of the genus *Xantusia* were evaluated by Sinclair *et al.* (2004), however the relationships between species of the genus *Lepidophyma* remain unknown. In the systematic revision of the genus, Bezy and Camarillo (2002) recognized seventeen species, and subsequently Canseco-Márquez *et al.* (2008) described *Lepidophyma cuicateca* from Oaxaca, bringing the number of species to eighteen.

During recent field work in the Sierra Negra in southern Puebla, we discovered an enigmatic population of *Lepidophyma* described here as a new species