



## A new species of lizard of the *Liolaemus elongatus* clade (Reptilia: Iguania: Liolaemini) from Curi Leuvu River Valley, northern Patagonia, Neuquén, Argentina

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### Abstract

A new species of the Andean-Patagonian *Liolaemus elongatus* clade is described. *Liolaemus burmeisteri* **sp. nov.** differs from other members of its clade in a character combination of light brown general coloration, plain dorsal pattern, dark lateral areas, a very bright orange-yellow coloration on femoral area and lower belly, and other morphological and genetic traits. It is distributed on a restricted area on sedimentary rocky outcrops found in an intermountain valley. *Liolaemus burmeisteri* **sp. nov.** is known only for its type locality in Curi Leuvu River Valley in northwestern Patagonia above 1037 m. A mitochondrial DNA gene tree analysis found this new species as the sister taxon of *Liolaemus smaug*.

**Key words:** Argentina; Liolaemidae; *Liolaemus burmeisteri* **sp. nov.**; *Liolaemus elongatus* clade; Northwestern Patagonia

### Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de saurio andino-patagónica del clado *Liolaemus elongatus*. *Liolaemus burmeisteri* **sp. nov.** se diferencia de otros miembros del clado por una combinación de caracteres incluyendo una coloración general del cuerpo marrón clara, un patrón dorsal homogéneo, una coloración amarillo-naranja muy brillante en la región femoral y parte baja del vientre y otros rasgos morfológicos y genéticos. Tiene una distribución geográfica restringida a afloramientos de rocas sedimentarias encontradas en un valle intermontano. *Liolaemus burmeisteri* **sp. nov.** se conoce sólo para su localidad tipo en el valle del río Curi Leuvu en el noroeste de la Patagonia por encima de 1037 m. Un árbol génico basado en ADN mitocondrial encontró a esta nueva especie como el taxon hermano de *Liolaemus smaug*.

**Palabras Claves:** Argentina; Liolaemidae; *Liolaemus burmeisteri* **sp. nov.**; clado *Liolaemus elongatus*; Noroeste Patagónico

### Introduction

In 1896, Julio Koslowsky, one of the early explorers and naturalists of Patagonia, described a saxicolous lizard species from the western slopes of the southern Andes as *Liolaemus elongatus* (Koslowsky 1896). At that time it was very hard to obtain geographic references for some areas of Patagonia, a region recently occupied and explored by the Argentinean government; thus the type locality was indicated by Koslowsky as “Territorio del Chubut, cerca de las Cordilleras” and he did not assign an holotype specimen. More than 70 years had past after the original description when Donoso-Barros and Cei (1971) described *Liolaemus petrophilus* as a subspecies of *Liolaemus elongatus* and a few years later, Cei (1974) made the first revision of the group describing a new related species, with some variation in size and coloration between populations, and extending its geographic range from northern Mendoza to southern Chubut. A few years later some similar looking populations of *Liolaemus elongatus* were cited for north-