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A new montane species of *Cercosaura* (Squamata: Gymnophthalmidae) from Colombia, with notes on the distribution of the genus

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Abstract

The gymnophthalmid genus *Cercosaura* is distributed throughout South America and southern Panama. *Cercosaura hypnoides* **sp. nov.** was discovered from Meta, Colombia and differs from all other species by possessing three supraoculars, a single palpebral scale, five supralabials and infralabials, hexagonal, keeled dorsal scales arranged in transverse and oblique rows, small lateral scales, six longitudinal rows of ventrals, 8–12 femoral pores per hindlimb, 18–22 subdigital lamellae on the fourth toe, overlapping limbs when adpressed against the body, and the pattern of two dorsolateral and two lateral stripes throughout the head, body, and tail. The description of the new species increases the known number of *Cercosaura* species to 13, with five species occurring in Colombia.

Key words: *Cercosaura hypnoides*, Colombia, Gymnophthalmidae, lizard, Meta, new species, South America, taxonomy

Resumen

El género *Cercosaura* de la familia Gymnophthalmidae se distribuye por Suramérica y el sur de Panamá. *Cercosaura hypnoides* **sp. nov.**, procedente de Meta, Colombia, se distingue de los demás congéneres por poseer tres supraoculares, una sola escama palpebral, cinco supralabiales e infralabiales, escamas dorsales hexagonales, aquilladas y arregladas en filas transversales y oblicuas, escamas laterales pequeñas, seis filas longitudinales de ventrales, 8-12 poros femorales por extremidad posterior, 18–22 lamellae subdigitales en el cuarto dedo del pie, extremidades que se solapan cuando se las presiona contra el cuerpo, y un patrón de dos franjas dorsolaterales más dos franjas laterales que recorren cabeza, cuerpo, y cola. La descripción de la especie nueva aumenta el número de especies de *Cercosaura* conocidas a 13, con cinco especies ocurriendo en Colombia.

Palabras claves: *Cercosaura hypnoides*, Colombia, Gymnophthalmidae, lagartija, Meta, nueva especie, Suramérica, taxonomía

Introduction

The genus *Cercosaura* Wagler contains 12 species, distributed throughout the Amazonian, Guianan, and savannah regions of South America, occurring in 12 of the 13 countries of South America (excluding Chile) and extending into Panama (Ruibal 1952; Uzzell 1973; Avila-Pires 1995; Tedesco 1998; Doan 2003). Two additional taxa have been synonymized: *C. ampuedai* is a junior synonym of *C. vertebralis* and *C. oshaughnessyi* is a junior synonym of *C. argulus* (Doan, 2003). Many of the species primarily occur in the lowlands, with some species occurring up to middle and high elevations. Table 1 summarizes the known country and altitudinal data for the species of *Cercosaura*. Using morphological data, Doan (2003) conducted a phylogenetic analysis on the genus and redefined it to include *Pantodactylus* and *Prionodactylus*, which was corroborated by subsequent molecular studies (Castoe