

Ctenosaura acanthura (SHAW, 1802).
An addition to the known fauna
of the Mexican State of Hidalgo

The genus *Ctenosaura* is distributed from southeastern Baja California and Sonora in western Mexico, and from Tamaulipas in eastern Mexico, southward along both the Pacific and Caribbean versants through most of Central America to central Panama (GRISMER 1999; KÖHLER et al. 2000; KÖHLER & HASBUN 2001). However, the detailed geographic distribution of the large-sized *Ctenosaura* species in mainland Mexico [e. g., *C. acanthura* (SHAW, 1802), *C. pectinata* (WIEGMANN, 1834), *C. macrolopha* SMITH, 1972, *C. similis* (GRAY, 1831)] remains poorly known.

The distribution of *C. acanthura* is given by SMITH & TAYLOR (1950) as "Atlantic slopes from central Tamaulipas south to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Reliably reported only from the states of Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosí (Pujal), Veracruz, and Oaxaca". More recently, ETHERIDGE (1982), DE QUEIROZ (1995) and KÖHLER & STREIT (1996) made similar statements regarding the range of this species, none reporting it from the state of Hidalgo. Contrary to this view, VOGT et al. (1997) list *C. similis* as occurring in the region of Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, without justification.

In the collection of the Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario de Hidalgo (ITAH) at Huejutla de Reyes, Hidalgo, Mexico, are six *Ctenosaura* specimens (ITAH 234, 332, 471-472, 611-612) collected in the state of Hidalgo which clearly represent *C. acanthura*. The recorded collecting localities are La Lomita, ca. 21°08'N, 98°25'W, 140 m a.s.l., municipality of Huejutla de Reyes (ITAH 234, adult female, leg. Abdel Garcia Garcia, 24-05-99); Huitzotlaco, 21°00'31" N, 98°20'42" W, 171 m a.s.l., municipality of Atlapexco (ITAH 332, juvenile male, leg. Leonardo Martinez Mendez, 27-04-99); Atlapexco, municipality of Atlapexco (ITAH 471, adult male, leg. David Hernandez, 03-03-98); Parajes, 21°10'32"N, 98°17'41"W, 120 m a.s.l., municipality of Huejutla de Reyes (ITAH 472, adult female, leg. Alvaro Tiburcio Loaysa, without date); Yahualica, 20°57'N, 98°23' W, 500 m a.s.l., municipal-

ity of Yahualica (ITAH 611, adult female, leg. Frank Torres Torres, 1999); Atlapexco, 21° 00'31"N, 98°20' 42"W, 171 m a.s.l., municipality of Atlapexco (ITAH 612, adult male, leg. Jenning Ibarra Hernandez, 09-05-98). These specimens represent the first records of *C. acanthura* for the state of Hidalgo.

The specimens of this series agree well with the definition of the species as given by KÖHLER & STREIT (1996) and in particular show the diagnostic extremely spinous tail as illustrated in their figure 7. Following are some selected morphometric and scalation data for the Hidalgo series (n = 6): snout-vent length (SVL) 162-310 mm; ratio tail length / SVL 1.92-2.14; 9-11 supralabials; 10-11 infralabials; 2 scales between rostral and nasal; 4 postmentals; 1-2 scales between supraorbital semicircles; 1-3 scales between interparietal and supraorbital semicircles; 6-11 transversal dorsal scale rows between occipital scales and onset of middorsal crest; 72-78 middorsal crest spines; 12-22 transversal dorsal scale rows between posterior end of middorsal crest and first whirl of enlarged spinous caudal scales; 6-8 femoral pores; proximal first 2 to 4 intercalary tail sections composed of three complete rows of small scales between whirls of enlarged spinous caudal scales; succeeding intercalary sections made up by two complete scale rows until whirls become homogenous towards tip of tail (in ITAH 611 there is a reduction to one complete scale row between caudal whorls 9 and 12).

The Hidalgo localities of *C. acanthura* are all in Sierras Bajas y Lomerios del Carso Huasteco (INEGI 1992) and valleys of the Llanura Costera del Golfo Norte (INEGI 1992) at elevations between 120 and 660 m a.s.l. The specimens of Atlapexco and Yahualica were found in Low Semi-evergreen Forest (Selva Baja Subperennifolia - INEGI 1992), those of the La Lomita y Parajes in or near houses of small villages.

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Lepidoblepharis sanctaemartae (RUTHVEN, 1916), a lizard new to the Venezuelan fauna

Sixteen species of Dwarf Geckos of the genus *Lepidoblepharis* are currently recognized (AVILA-PIRES 2001). This group of neotropical lizards occurs in Central America from Nicaragua to Panamá, in South America on both sides of the Andes of Colombia and Ecuador, in Amazonian lowlands of Peru and Brazil, and in Falcón State in northwestern Venezuela (MARKEZICH & TAPHORN 1994; AVILA-PIRES 2001).

During field work along the Río Guasare, Sierra de Perijá, Estado Zulia, Venezu-

ela, at elevations between 50 and 70 m, one of us (RR) collected eight specimens of *Lepidoblepharis sanctaemartae* (RUTHVEN, 1916) (fig. 1). The specimens were preserved in 10% formalin, transferred to 70% ethanol, and deposited in the Museo de la Estación Biológica de Rancho Grande, estado Aragua, Venezuela (EBRG).

The specimens were active in the leaf litter from 10.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m. in semi-deciduous forest ("bosque húmedo premontano" in HOLDRIDGE's life zone classification by EWEL et al. 1976) on 13 and 14 November 1996 (EBRG 3318-20, 3324, 3326-28) and on 17 February 1997 (EBRG 3384). This type of forest occurs along piedmont areas north of the Sierra de Perijá in both Venezuela and Colombia (EWEL et al. 1976; SUÁREZ-NAVARRO et al. 1984). If the distribution of this lizard is associated with this forest type, we anticipate its presence farther south in Venezuela, along the eastern versant of the Sierra de Perijá and down at least to the Río Upon. This sierra continues to be poorly known herpetologically (LA MARCA 1987; VILORIA & CALCHI 1993; MANZANILLA et al. 1999). The biogeographical relationships of the Sierra de Perijá to other mountainous areas in northern South America remain uncertain, mainly because of the lack of proper inventories in of the region. Nonetheless, the scarce data available show that some snakes and frogs of the sub-Andean humid forests up to 1000 m, are shared between the Sierra de Perijá and the Venezuelan Cordillera de Mérida (LA MARCA & GARCÍA 1986; LA MARCA 1994A; LA MARCA 1994B; LA MARCA 1998).

No species of amphibians or reptiles from humid montane forests are known to be shared between the Sierra de Perijá and the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta; perhaps this is because of intervening semiarid habitats that may act as an ecological barrier. Some authors (e.g., RUIZ-CARRANZA et al. 1994) have suggested that the Sierra de Perijá has been decisive in the biological colonization of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, its slopes acting in the past as biological corridors for frog genera such as *Geobatrachus* and *Eleutherodactylus*, and even allowing successive invasions of some species (e.g., frogs of the genus *Atelopus*). This would be possible if ancestral stocks

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