

Liolaemus somuncurae
CEI & SCOLARO, 1981 new to
the Province of Chubut,
Patagonia, Argentina

The genus *Liolaemus* contains more than 210 species, 58 of which occur in a variety of habitats in Patagonia (Argentina) (MORANDO et al. 2006; SCOLARO 2005).

Liolaemus somuncurae was described from “Meseta de Somuncura, near Lago Raimundo” and belongs to the *kingii* group (CEI & SCOLARO 1981). Last year AVILA et al. (2007) found this lizard at a new site in the western Río Negro province and during a recent field trip to the central north Chubut Province, the authors collected eight individuals which were morphologically similar to specimens described as *L. somuncurae*. The lizards were collected by hand, euthanized with pericardic injection of Tiopental Sódico (Abbot®), fixed with 20% formalin, and transferred to 70% ethanol after 3-4 days. Latitude, longitude, and elevation were determined with a Garmin™ GPS 12 global position device. Voucher specimens were deposited in the field collection Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando (LJAMM 10981-10988), of the Centro Nacional Patagónico-CÓNICET, Puerto Madryn (Chubut), Argentina.

The position of the new collection site is depicted in Fig. 1, along with the previously known geographic distribution of the species. The specimens collected constitute the first records of *L. somuncurae* in the Province of Chubut and now represent the southernmost known records. This extends the species' known range area about 110 km to the southwest of the type locality, and 120 km southeastward from the westernmost vouchered locality, both in the province of Río Negro. New locality: Chubut Province, Telsen Department: Provincial road 67, 11.2 km S of the Río Negro – Chubut border (47°04'S, 68°09'W, 1407 m a.s.l.). 24 October 2008. M. F. BREITMAN, N. FRUTOS, M. L. KOZYKARISKI coll.: LJAMM 10981-10988. The landscape was dominated by Patagonian steppe vegetation which is constituted predominantly by shrubs (*Mulinum spinosum*, *Adesmia campestris* and *Senecio bracteolatus*), and several grass species of

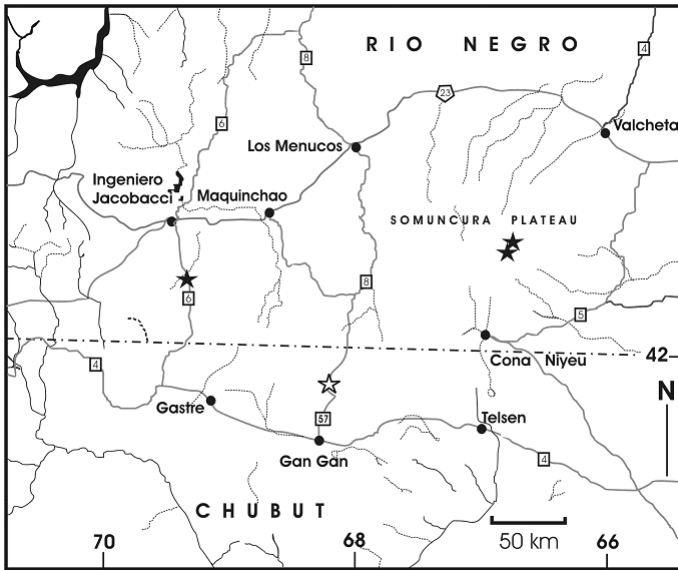


Fig. 1: The position of the new site (☆) relative to the known record localities (★) of *Liolaemus somuncurae* CEI & SCOLARO, 1981. Dotted lines - streams; dashed line - border between the states of Chubut and Río Negro (Argentina); gray lines - national and provincial roads.

Poa and *Stipa* (BURKART et al. 1999). All lizards were found basking on small stones accumulated by motor graders.

Comparisons of collected specimens with those of *L. somuncurae* deposited at the collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales Bernardino Rivadavia (MACN) and voucher specimens deposited in the field collection Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando (LJAMM 3661-3, 3708-9), housed in the Centro Nacional Patagónico-CONICET, Puerto Madryn (Chubut), combined with literature data (CEI & SCOLARO 1981; SCOLARO & CEI 1997, 2006) confirmed species identity.

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