

*Anolis datzorum* KÖHLER, PONCE,  
SUNYER & BATISTA, 2007,  
an addition to the known  
herpetofauna of Costa Rica

KÖHLER et al. (2007) described *Anolis datzorum* based on two adult females and a juvenile from La Nevera, Serranía de Tabasará in western Panama and referred several specimens from localities to the west of the type locality to this species. More recently, LOTZKAT et al. (2010) collected the first males of this species at the type locality and published descriptions of topotypic adult males including coloration in life and hemipenis morphology. The herpetofauna of Costa Rica appears to be relatively well-studied (SAVAGE 2002; SAVAGE & BOLAÑOS 2009; BOLAÑOS et al. 2010). However, although 33 species of anoles are known from this country, this group of lizards is still in need of study as recent field and lab work demonstrates. Several new species and taxonomic changes involving Costa Rican anoles have been published in the past few years (KÖHLER & SUNYER 2008; KÖHLER 2009; POE et al. 2009; KÖHLER 2010; KÖHLER & VESELY 2010).

Here we report upon the first known Costa Rican specimen of *A. datzorum*. The individual now preserved at the Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Frankfurt (SMF 90325, original field number GK-2558; Fig. 1) was collected by the authors on 18 March 2010 at Las Tablas (8°56'26.56"N, 82°43'40.69"W; WGS84), 1960 m elevation, Cantón de Coto Brus, Province Puntarenas. This anole was encountered at night (23:30 h) while it was sleeping on a fern leaf about 2 m above the ground. The collection area can be characterized as cloud forest (Lower Montane Rainforest sensu HOLDRIDGE 1982). However, most of the original vegetation had been converted into pasture except for some remaining patches of forest. This locality is near the headwaters of Río Cotón, and several small streams with fast flowing water are present in the area. Mean annual temperature is 15 °C, and mean annual rainfall is approximately 3500 mm (LIPS et al. 2003).

SMF 90325 is an adult female as indicated by slender base of tail, small dewlap

and habitus; SVL 50.0 mm; tail incomplete; tail slightly compressed in cross section, tail height 2.8 mm, tail width 2.3 mm; axilla to groin distance 21.7 mm; head length 13.5 mm, head length/SVL ratio 0.27 snout length 6.3 mm; head width 9.4 mm; longest toe of adpressed hind limb reaching to a point between shoulder and tympanum; shank length 10.9 mm, shank length/head length ratio 0.81; longest finger of extended forelimb reaching 1.7 mm beyond tip of snout; longest finger of adpressed forelimb failing to reach anterior insertion of hind limbs by 4.6 mm. Scales on snout keeled; 8 postrostrals; 7 scales between nasals; two prenasals, the lower separated from rostral by one scale; scales in distinct prefrontal depression strongly multicarinate; supraorbital semicircles well developed, medially separated by one scale, consisting of large, multicarinate scales; supraorbital disc composed of 6 – 8 distinctly enlarged, multicarinate scales; circumorbital row rudimentary, therefore, most enlarged supraorbitals in contact with supraorbital semicircles; three elongated superciliaries, anterior one about twice the size of posterior ones; 3–5 rows of small keeled scales extending between enlarged supraorbitals and superciliaries; parietal depression present; interparietal scale well developed, 2.0 mm x 1.0 mm (length x width), surrounded by scales of moderate to large size; 2 scales present between interparietal and supraorbital semicircles; canthal ridge distinct, composed of 4 large (all multicarinate) and 4 small multicarinate anterior canthal scales; 7 scales present between second canthals; 9 scales present between posterior canthals; 37 (right) – 34 (left) keeled loreal scales in a maximum of 7 (right) – 6 (left) horizontal rows; 7 keeled subocular scales arranged in a single row; 7 supralabials to level below center of eye; 1 (right) – 2 (left) suboculars broadly in contact with supralabials; ear opening 0.3 mm x 1.0 mm (length x height); mental distinctly wider than long, almost completely divided medially, bordered posteriorly by 6 postmentals (arranged asymmetrically, 4 right – 2 left); 8 (right) – 7 (left) infralabials to level below center of eye; sublabials undifferentiated; keeled granular scales present on medial portion of chin and throat, scales on lateral portion



Fig. 1: Adult female *Anolis datzorum*, SMF 90325, from Las Tablas (8°56'26.56"N, 82°43'40.69"W"), 1960 m elevation, Cantón de Coto Brus, Province Puntarenas, Costa Rica.



Fig. 2: Orange-yellow dewlap of adult female *Anolis datzorum*, SMF 90325.

enlarged and uni- to tricarinate; dewlap extending from level below tympanum to level of anterior insertion of forelimb; dorsum of body with strongly keeled scales with rounded posterior margins, 8 – 10 medial rows slightly enlarged, largest dorsal scales about 0.34 mm x 0.33 mm (length x width); about 40 medial dorsal scales in one head length; about 83 medial dorsal scales between axilla and groin; lateral scales slightly heterogeneous; ventrals at midbody keeled, mucronate, subimbricate, about 0.44 mm x 0.44 mm (length x width); about 33 ventral scales in one head length; about 56 ventral scales between axilla and groin; 134 scales around midbody; all caudal scales strongly keeled; caudal middorsal scales slightly enlarged, without whorls of enlarged scales, although an indistinct division in segments is discernible; no tube-like axillary pocket present; limb scales keeled, imbricate; largest scales on dorsal surface of forelimb about 0.49 mm x 0.39 mm (length x width); digital pads dilated; distal phalanx narrower than and raised from dilated pad; 27 (right) – 25 (left) lamellae under phalanges ii – iv of fourth toe; 10 scales under distal phalanx of fourth toe.

Coloration in life was recorded as follows: Dorsal ground color of body Bunting Green (color code 150 in SMITHE 1975–1981) with suffusion of True Cinnamon (139) and narrow Olive Brown (28) chevrons; lateral surface of head with Raw Umber (123) stripes radiating out from eye; a dirty white subocular stripe; dorsal surface of head Tawny Olive (223D) with a Cinnamon Brown (39) interorbital bar; occipital region Sayal Brown (223C); parietal region True Cinnamon (139); ventral surfaces of head, body, limbs, and tail Cream Color (54) with a suggestion of Pearls Gray (81) at midventer and Olive-Yellow (52) speckles; iris Buff (24); dewlap Orange Yellow (18; Fig. 2).

A fecal pellet was dropped by SMF 90325 when handled the next morning. Upon examination with the aid of a dissecting microscope (Leica® MZ 12), the fecal sample revealed arthropod remains including those of Hymenoptera, Diptera, and a single pedipalp of a pseudoscorpion.

In general appearance and scalation SMF 90325 agrees well with the known specimens of *A. datzorum* from Panama. It

has a slightly more heterogeneous flank scalation than the available Panamanian specimens with some individual scales somewhat enlarged (about 10% larger than the remaining scales). In the original description, this species was tentatively placed in the *A. laeviventris* species group, an assignment supported by external and hemipenis morphology (LOTZKAT et al. 2010). The slightly heterogeneous flank scalation of SMF 90325 seems to confirm the proposed affinities since a more or less heterogeneous lateral scalation is found in other members of the *A. laeviventris* species group.

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