

Teius suquiensis AVILA & MARTORI,
1991, from Santiago del Estero,
Argentina: first record and potential
case of range extension

Teius suquiensis AVILA & MARTORI, 1991, is a parthenogenic lizard present in contact zones of the parapatric sexual species *Teius oculatus* (D'ORBIGNY & BIBRON, 1837) and *Teius teyou* (DAUDIN, 1802) (AVILA 2002). This is a diurnal species that feeds on insects (AVILA et al. 1992). Of the two populations known, the southern is associated with the Espinal and Dry Chaco ecoregions, reaching elevations of 1,210 m a.s.l. in the "Sierras de Córdoba", in the Provinces of San Luis and Córdoba, whereas, the northern is present in the Dry and Humid



Fig. 1: Habitat at the new record locality of *Teius suquiensis* AVILA & MARTORI, 1991, in the Province of Santiago del Estero, Argentina.

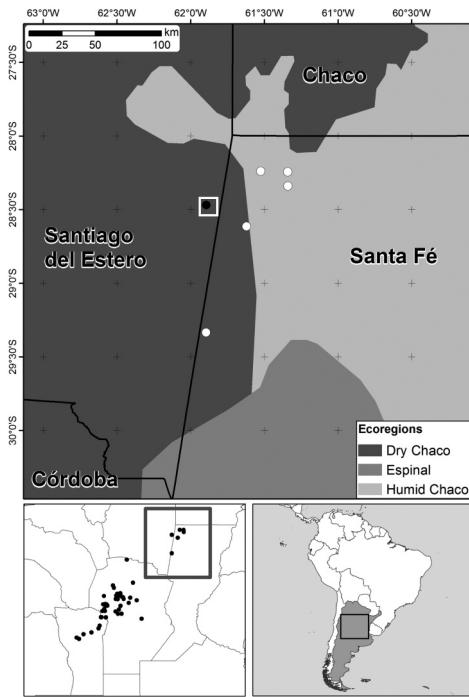


Fig. 2: Map showing the location of the new record of *Teius suquiensis* AVILA & MARTORI, 1991 (white square), and the closest previous records (white dots) in the Province of Santa Fé, Argentina.

Bottom left: whole of the known distribution of *T. suquiensis* with the area of the main map framed in gray.

Bottom right: location of the map to the left in the geographical context of South America. Argentina is highlighted in gray.

Chaco ecoregions, in the lowland below 75 m a.s.l. (CACCIALI et al. 2016). This latter population was known only from the Province of Santa Fé (CACCIALI et al. 2016).

Here the authors report the presence of *T. suquiensis* at 20 km east of “Los Juries” on the way to “La Nena” (28° 28’10”S, 61° 53’36”W), Province of Santiago del Estero, Argentina. Five specimens collected at that site were deposited in the herpetology collection of the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Corrientes, Argentina (UNNEC 13003-5, 13010-1).

The specimens were found along the road, on grassland vegetated with thorny

shrubs (Fig. 1). In the study area, this habitat type represents the transition of Dry to Humid Chaco. More to the west, the habitats along the roads are barren grounds without vegetation. It is important to note, that in the near forest (1.3 km from the *T. suquiensis* records) *T. teyou* is found.

The previous known *T. suquiensis* localities, which are closest to the new record were Villa Minetti and Estancia El Nochero in the Province of Santa Fé (CACCIALI et al. 2016), at distances of 31 and 43 km, respectively (Fig. 2).

This species was initially described from the Province of Córdoba (AVILA & MARTORI 1991); later the known distribution was extended considerably to the Province of Santa Fé (AVILA 1995). A record of *T. suquiensis*, 100 km north to previous known localities in Córdoba is an indication for an expansion of its range (CABRERA & MONGUILLOT 2007). *Teius suquiensis* seems to tolerate environmental modifications, being present in disturbed habitats and along roads (AVILA & MARTORI 1991). It is currently not possible to determine if the new record represents a recent expansion of the species’ range, or an established occurrence that was unknown simply due to lack of information.

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AUTHORS: Jorge CÉSPEDEZ ¹⁾, Pier CACCIALI (Corresponding author < pier.cacciali@senckenberg.de >)^{2, 3, 4)}, Martha MOTTE ⁵⁾ & Juan CÉSPEDEZ ⁶⁾

¹⁾ Departamento de Biología. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste. Av. Libertad 5470, (3400) Corrientes, Argentina.

²⁾ Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum, Senckenberganlage 25, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

³⁾ Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Institute for Ecology, Evolution & Diversity, Biologicum, Building C, Max-von-Laue-Straße 13, 60438 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

⁴⁾ Instituto de Investigación Biológica del Paraguay, Del Escudo 1607, 1425 Asunción, Paraguay.

⁵⁾ Museo Nacional de Historia Natural del Paraguay, Sucursal 1, Campus U.N.A., 2169 San Lorenzo, Paraguay.

⁶⁾ Our Lady of Itati College, EEUU 305, (3400) Corrientes, Argentina.

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