

perceived the replicas as colored flowers or fruits because snakes were unknown in ctenosaur diet studies and snakes with such coloration could pose a hazard to the lizards (Janzen and Brodie, *op. cit.*). Our observation clearly shows the willingness of a ctenosaur to attack a snake, even though the racer most closely resembled the monotone color pattern that elicited the fewest attacks in the Janzen and Brodie study. More importantly, this behavior may have implications regarding the potential for *C. similis* to impact threatened or endangered species. If this behavior is innate in *C. similis*, juvenile *Drymarchon corais couperi* (Eastern Indigo Snakes), a threatened species (Moler 1992. Rare and Endangered Biota of Florida, Vol III, Amphibians and Reptiles. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. 291 pp.), could be severely impacted. A high-density population of *C. similis*, such as found on Gasparilla Island, could negatively affect snake recruitment through such behavior.

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DIPLOLAEMUS DARWINI (NCN). **SAUROPHAGY.** *Diplo-laemus darwini* is a poorly known leiosaurid lizard found in Patagonia south of 44°S latitude. Data on the diet of this species is sketchy, though some authors mention it to be insectivorous (Ceï 1986. Reptiles del Centro, Centro-Oeste y Sur de la Argentina, Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino, Monogr. IV:1–527). Here we report an observation of interspecific saurophagy by an adult *D. darwini* on an adult *Liolaemus lineomaculatus*.

On 17 January 2008 during a field trip to Sierra del Bagual (49.40°S, 71.83°W; WGS84; elev. 601 m), Lago Argentino Department, Santa Cruz Province, southern Patagonia, Argentina; we observed an adult female *D. darwini* (92.9 mm SVL, 61.6 mm tail) basking on a rock in shrub-steppe habitat. When we chased it, the lizard ran under a rock where we captured it by hand. A few hours after we had temporarily placed this lizard in a plastic container, it regurgitated the remains of a female *L. lineomaculatus* (26.6 mm long × 12.5 mm wide). We estimated the original size of the *L. lineomaculatus* by comparison with other preserved *L. lineomaculatus* to be ca. 60 mm SVL. We also examined the remaining stomach contents of the *D. darwini* and found it to contain two tenebrionid beetles (*Nyctela* sp.). These two lizard species are synoptic in this area of Patagonian steppe and usually share similar habitats. Saurophagy has not been previously documented in the field for *D. darwini*.

D. R. Perez verified the identifications and the *D. darwini* (LJAMM 9390) and the *L. lineomaculatus* (LJAMM 7292) were deposited in the Herpetological Collection LJAMM (Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando) of the Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT), Puerto Madryn, Chubut.

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GAMBELIA COPEI (Cope's Leopard Lizard). **ENDOPARASITES.** *Gambelia copei*, a near-endemic to Baja California, ranges from extreme southern San Diego County, California, south to the northern Cape Region, Baja California Sur, Mexico (Grismer 2002. Amphibians and Reptiles of Baja California Including its Pacific Islands and the Islands in the Sea of Cortés. Univ. California Press, Berkeley, California. 399 pp.). To our knowledge, no reports of helminths exist for this species. The purpose of this note is to document the nematode *Thubunaea iguanae* from *G. copei*.

One *G. copei* female (108 mm SVL) collected in 1949 and deposited in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM), Los Angeles County, California, USA (LACM 4005, vic. Cerro Elefante, Vizcaino Desert, 27.2966°N, 114.3750°W, WGS84; elev. 335 m) was examined for helminths. The body cavity was opened and the coelomic cavity and visceral organs were examined. One nematode was found. It was cleared in a drop of glycerol on a glass slide, cover-slipped and identified as an adult female *T. iguanae* and deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection, Beltsville, Maryland as USNPC 101071.

Thubunaea iguanae is widely distributed among lizards from the southwestern United States and Mexico and has been reported from crotaphytids, gekkonids, phrynosomatids, teiids, and xantusiids (Telford 1965. Jpn. J. Exp. Med. 35:111–114) as well as colubrid snakes (Goldberg and Bursey 2001. Bull. South. California Acad. Sci. 100:109–116). It is in the family Physalopteridae, which utilize insect intermediate hosts (Anderson 2000. Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates: Their Development and Transmission, 2nd ed. CABI Publishing, Oxfordshire, UK, 650 pp.). *Gambelia copei* is a new host record for *T. iguanae*.

We thank Christine Thacker (LACM) for permission to examine *G. copei*.

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GLAPHYROMORPHUS NIGRICAUDUS (NCN). **PREY PIRACY.** Prey piracy, the opportunistic theft of prey from another predator or another indirect source, is known for a broad range of diurnal reptilian taxa. In this note I report on an incidence of prey piracy in the skink *Glaphyromorphus nigricaudus*.

Glaphyromorphus nigricaudus is a secretive species restricted to tropical northeast Queensland, Australia. Like most of its genus, it prefers shaded moist habitats and is reported to be nocturnal-

distributed gekkonid lizard, occurs from gallery forests of rivers in Brazilian Cerrado across the entire Amazon and Orinoco Basins, east to foothills of the Andes and north to Panamá (Pianka and Vitt 2003. *Windows to the Evolution of Diversity*. Univ. California Press, Berkeley, California. 346 pp.). In Amazonian Brazil, *G. humeralis* is among the most common lizards, occurring in all kinds of forest, such as terra firme, várzea or igapó, primary or secondary, gallery forests, and patches of forest in savanna areas (Ávila-Pires 1995. *Zool. Verhandl.* 299:1–706). Here, we report a previously unrecognized pattern of habitat use in *G. humeralis* and an escape behavior not previously mentioned in the literature.

During fieldwork in a mangrove forest, we found two individuals of *G. humeralis* (a male 33.5 mm SVL; a female 23.3 mm SVL). This mangrove forest is basically comprised of *Avicennia germinans*, *Rhizophora mangle*, and *Laguncularia racemosa*, and is flooded by daily tides, resulting in high water salinities (41) during the dry season. This mangrove area is located on the Ajuruteua Peninsula, in the municipality of Bragança, State of Pará, Brazil, and is 6 km from the terra firme to the north and ca. 30 km from the mainland to the south. To our knowledge, *G. humeralis* has not been reported as a part of the typical mangrove fauna. Insects represent a major food source for predators in mangroves (Hogarth 1999. *The Biology of Mangroves*. Oxford University Press Inc., New York. 240 pp.), and we found insects in the stomachs of both lizards, including gryllids (Orthoptera), chalcidid wasps (Hymenoptera), termites (Isoptera), and nematocid and pharid flies (Diptera). A number of microhabitats available on the ground in non-flooded tropical forests, such as decayed logs, dead leaves, spaces among roots or else stones, tunnels of termite nests or even axils of terrestrial bromeliads are unavailable to *G. humeralis* for foraging, nesting, or refuge in flooded mangrove areas (Ávila-Pires, *op. cit.*; Maciel et al. 2005. *Herpetol. Rev.* 36:178). During capture, the *G. humeralis* attempted to escape running around the tree trunk, a characteristic behavior for this species (Ávila-Pires, *op. cit.*). Some attempts at capture resulted in their diving into the brackish mangrove water and submerging 10–15 cm, an escape behavior not previously reported. Study of *G. humeralis* in mangrove forests is needed to clarify how this species copes with this inhospitable environment.

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LEPOSOMA PERCARINATUM (NCN). **AQUATIC HABITAT USE.** Lizards of the genus *Leposoma* are conspicuous members of leaf litter herpetofauna in Neotropical forests (Pellegrino et al. 1999. *Hereditas* 13:15–21; Rodrigues 1997. *Herpetologica* 53:383–389). The *Leposoma parietale* species group, which occurs from Amazonia to Costa Rica (Rodrigues and Borges 1997.

Herpetologica 53:1–6; Uzzell and Barry 1971. *Postilla* 154:1–39), currently contains 10 species (Rodrigues and Ávila-Pires 2005. *J. Herpetol.* 39:541–546). One, *L. percarinatum*, is parthenogenetic (Pellegrino et al., *op. cit.*; Uzzell and Barry, *op. cit.*) and is probably the most widespread species of *Leposoma* in the Amazon (Ávila Pires 1995. *Zool. Ver.* 299:1–706). The species has been reported to occur either close to the water (near creeks or in várzea and igapó forests) or in terra firme forest (Ávila-Pires, *op. cit.*; Crump 1971. *Occ. Pap. Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Kansas* 3:1–62; Martins 1991. *Stud. Neo. Fauna Env.* 26:179–190; pers. obs.), but aquatic habitat use is unreported. Here, we report an instance of aquatic habitat use.

At 2015 h (at night) on 3 July 2008, SMS observed an adult of *L. percarinatum* active in a pool associated with a small forest creek in a forest fragment near Candeias do Jamari (09.7792°S, 063.6696°W, datum SAD69; elev. 87 m), state of Rondônia, Brazil. The animal was moving at the water surface through floating algae and dead leaves ca. 0.5 m from the edge of the pool. The animal was not collected as it escaped after two capture attempts in the water. Identification was only possible due to the previous experience of the senior author with *Leposoma* in the field (Souza 2007. MSc thesis, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. 73 pp.). This is the first report of *L. percarinatum* using aquatic habitat.

This observation reinforces the idea of relationship between *L. percarinatum* and *L. ferreirai*, hypothesized as closely related (Rodrigues and Ávila-Pires, *op. cit.*). *Leposoma ferreirai*, the only *Leposoma* with a clearly aquatic habit, is restricted to Arquipélago das Anavilhanas, a fluvial archipelago of more than 400 islands that are inundated several months annually by the Rio Negro and is ca. 750 km from Candeias do Jamari.

We thank Prominer Projetos S/C LTDA and Therys Midori Sato for field assistance and IdeaWild for equipment.

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LIOLAEMUS AUSTROMENDOCINUS (NCN). **SAUROPHAGY.** *Liolaemus austromendocinus* is a medium-sized liolaemid lizard found in northwestern Patagonia from the Andean mountains of Departamento San Carlos, Mendoza Province (34.00°S latitude) to rocky outcrops of the Añelo Basin, Departamento Añelo, northern Neuquén Province (38.50°S latitude). Dietary data are sparse, but the species is reported to feed on insects (Ceï 1986. *Reptiles del Centro, Centro-Oeste y Sur de la Argentina*. Monogr. IV, Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino, Italy. 527 pp.). Here we report an observation of interspecific saurophagy by an adult *L. austromendocinus* on an adult *L. bibronii*.

On 7 February 2008 during a field trip to Auca Mahuida volcano (37.6932°S, 68.8241°W; datum WGS84; elev. 1348 m, Departamento Añelo, Neuquén Province, northwestern Patagonia, Argentina), we observed an adult *L. austromendocinus* (86.9 mm SVL, 228.9 mm tail) basking on a rock in shrub-steppe habitat. When we

chased it, the lizard ran under a rock where we captured it by hand. One hour after we had temporarily placed this lizard in a plastic container, it regurgitated the remains of a female *L. bibronii* (35 mm long \times 10 mm wide). We estimated the original size of the *L. bibronii* by comparison with other preserved *L. bibronii* to be ca. 50 mm SVL. These two lizard species are synoptic in this area of Patagonian steppe and usually share similar habitats. Saurophagy has not been previously documented for *L. austromendocinus*.

Nicolas Frutos verified the identifications and the *L. austromendocinus* (LJAMM 10340) and the *L. bibronii* (LJAMM 10483) were deposited in the Herpetological Collection LJAMM (Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando) of the Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT), Puerto Madryn, Chubut.

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LIOLAEMUS BAGUALI (NCN). **SPINAL INJURY.** *Liolaemus baguali* is an uncommon liolaemid lizard endemic to Patagonian steppe environments of western Santa Cruz Province, southern Patagonian, Argentina. During field work on 17 January 2008, along the margins of Ruta Nacional (National Highway) 40, 72.8 km N of its junction Ruta Provincial (Provincial Highway) 288 (49.1040°S, 71.1985°W; datum WGS84; elev. 525 m), Rio Chico Department, Santa Cruz Province, we collected an adult male *L. baguali* (66.4 mm SVL) that appeared to exhibit a scoliosis as had been recently reported for another Patagonian lizard (Frutos et al.

2006. Herpetol. Rev. 37:468–469). After we x-rayed the lizard, we realized that the supposed scoliosis was in fact severe spinal trauma (Fig. 1). The radiograph revealed vertebral displacement and an apparent disconnection between bones. Apparently, the injury had not yet affected the nervous system because the lizard was able to move and run normally. Externally, no evidence of a wound was visible: scales and scale rows were complete and no scars were noticeable. Only a humpback appearance with slight displacement to the right side was evident. Absence of external evidence of injury likely means that it cannot be attributed to a predator. The lizard was found in the west edge of an unpaved road between small to medium rounded rocks periodically disturbed by grazers. The injury may be attributable to crushing between rocks during disturbance by grazers or vehicular traffic. Our observation reveals an unusual ability to survive severe internal injury.

The lizard was deposited in collection Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando (LJAMM) now housed in CENPAT-CONICET (LJAMM 9435).

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MICROACONTIAS LITORALIS (Coastal Legless Skink). **COPULATION.** Few ecological and natural history data exist for many fossorial herpetofaunal species, including the skink *Microacontias litoralis*. During the late afternoon of 25 October 2007, a pair of *M. litoralis* was discovered in the process of copulating in white sand dunes near Noup, on the Namaqualand Coast, Northern Cape, South Africa (30.10832°S; 17.21752°E; datum WGS84; elev. 43 m). The lizards were partly exposed in the sand with less than 50% of their bodies obscured from view. Their bodies were entwined, crossing over each other in three places. Temperature of the sand was 28.3°C; air temperature was 22.2°C. On closer inspection, the lizards attempted to escape but were captured. The male's hemipenes were exposed. The male measured 108 mm SVL (26 mm tail, 1.4 g) and showed orange and brown coloration as described by Branch (1998. Field Guide to the Snakes and Other Reptiles of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa. 399 pp.). The female measured 111 mm SVL (30 mm tail, 1.4 g) and was an overall orange color with some fine dark speckling over the entire dorsum. These data represent the first on copulation for this species. Both specimens were killed, preserved, and deposited at Bayworld (Port Elizabeth Museum: PEM R17456–57).

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OPHISAURUS COMPRESSUS (Island Glass Lizard). **PREDATION.** Known predators of glass lizards (*Ophisaurus* spp.) include colubrid, elapid, and viperid snakes (e.g., Schmidt 1932. Copeia 1932:6–9; Palis 1993. Herpetol. Rev. 24:59, 62; Palmer and Braswell 1995. Reptiles of North Carolina. Univ. North Carolina

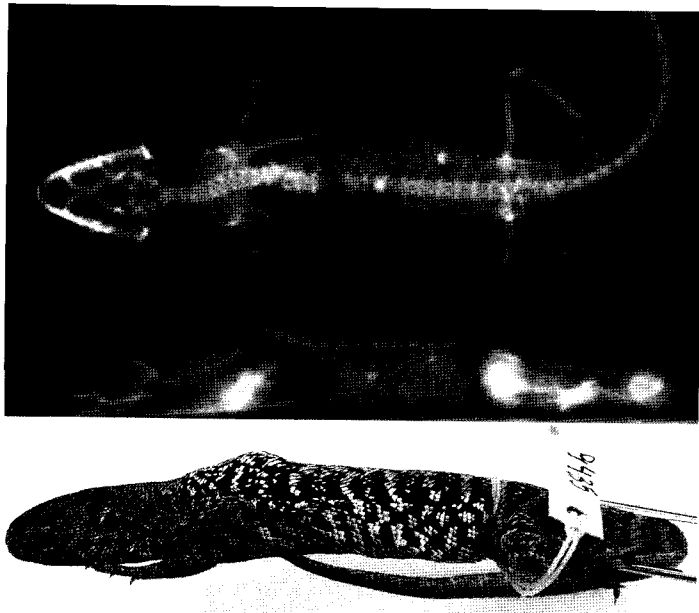


FIG. 1. Top and middle panels: Dorsal and lateral radiographs of the injured *Liolaemus baguali*, arrow indicates the spinal injury. Lower panel: External view, no injury is visible in the dorsal scales.

Philodryas psammophidea is a common snake in the Monte and Chaco arid and semiarid regions of western and northwestern Argentina and has been reported as a lizard-eater in general citations (Cei 1993. Reptiles del Noroeste, Nordeste y Este de la Argentina. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino, Mon. 14:1–949). At 1030 h on 19 October 2008 during a collecting trip through western San Luis province a DOR juvenile *P. psammophidea* (sex undetermined, 90 mm SVL, 555.0 mm TL, 28 g) was found on Provincial Road 3, 43.7 km S of San Luis City, La Capital Department, San Luis province (33.6171°S, 66.4139°W, datum = WGS 84, 515 m elev.). As we were preserving the specimen, we extracted from its stomach an adult *Liolaemus gracilis* (47.0 mm SVL, 134.0 mm TL, 1.8 g). The lizard's body was nearly completely intact, with only its tail autotomized near the base and its head possessing a severe wound, probably inflicted when the snake caught it. The specimens of *L. gracilis* (LJAMM 10937) and *P. psammophidea* (LJAMM 10935) were deposited in the herpetological collection at Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando (LJAMM) of the Centro Nacional Patagónico – CONICET, Puerto Madryn, Argentina.

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LIOLAEMUS HATCHERI (NCN). MULTIPLE MORTALITY.

Liolaemus hatcheri is a small liolaemid lizard endemic to a small region in northwestern Santa Cruz Province, northern Patagonian, Argentina (Etheridge 1998. Cuad. Herpetol. 12:31–36). Only anecdotal data are known about its biology and natural history (Cei 1986. Reptiles del Centro, Centro-oeste y Sur de la Argentina. Mus. Sci. Nat. Torino Mon. 4:1–427). During field work carried out on 18 January, 2008 in Estancia Cerro Beltza (47.9937°S, 71.6804°W; datum: WGS84; elev. 912 m), Rio Chico Department, Santa Cruz Province, we found a population of *L. hatcheri* inhabiting a gently sloping area with highly degraded vegetation overgrazed by sheep. Lizards were found basking on medium-sized rocks scattered in the area and typically retreated to nearby rock crevices or burrows upon disturbance. Upon lifting a roughly oval-shaped, medium-sized rock (70 × 25 × 40 cm; ~30 kg) that overlaid a larger, imbedded rock, and thus provided a crevice between the two, we found three lizard carcasses that we identified by comparison with live individuals as adult specimens of *Liolaemus hatcheri* (~75 mm, SVL) (Fig. 1). This finding revealed that *L. hatcheri* use small crevices as communal shelters, but the cause of death is unclear. We hypothesize two potential causes: lizards use this refugia for temporary shelter during the normal season of activity and unusually low temperatures caused their demise inside the crevice, or the rock was moved by human or domestic livestock activity in the area and the lizards were crushed underneath. Findings on multiple deaths of *Liolaemus* in Patagonia are uncommon and formal reports are non-existent to our knowledge. Voucher specimens (LJAMM 7615–7617) are deposited in the Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando (LJAMM) collection housed in CENPAT-CONICET.

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Fig. 1. Upper: general view of the site where the three lizards were found dead in the rock. Below: Detail of the three carcasses.

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LIOLAEMUS OLONGASTA (NCN). PREDATION. *Liolaemus olongasta* is an oviparous and insectivorous, small-sized lizard inhabiting the arid landscape of Monte desert in western Argentina. Its geographic distribution ranges through central-west La Rioja to northern Mendoza provinces (Etheridge 1993. Boll. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino 11:1–99; Sanabria et al. 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36: 337). Only a few data are available on its biology (e.g., Canovas et al. 2006. Herpetol. Rev. 37:87–88) and no data about its predators have been published. Hence, here we report an observation of *Pseudotomodon trigonatus* predation on *L. olongasta*.

Pseudotomodon trigonatus is a rare snake, endemic to western Argentina, inhabiting mainly the Monte and southern Chaco regions and has been reported as a lizard-eater in general citations (Etheridge, *op. cit.*). At 1000 h on 19 October 2008 during a collecting trip through northern San Juan province we observed a juvenile female *L. olongasta* basking in an open area between bushes outside National Road 40, 6.5 km E Huaco River Bridge, in the road to Huaco, Jachal Department, San Juan province (30.3323°S, 68.6537°W, datum = WGS 84, 1096 m elev.). As we approached, the lizard ran away looking for refuge between the branches of a *Larrea cuneifolia* bush. When it reached the proximity of a small burrow between the branches, we observed the lizard's body writhing, as something appeared to be grabbing it from inside the burrow. We continued to observe this activity until only a hind limb and the tail remained outside the burrow. When we grabbed

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-CONICET, 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

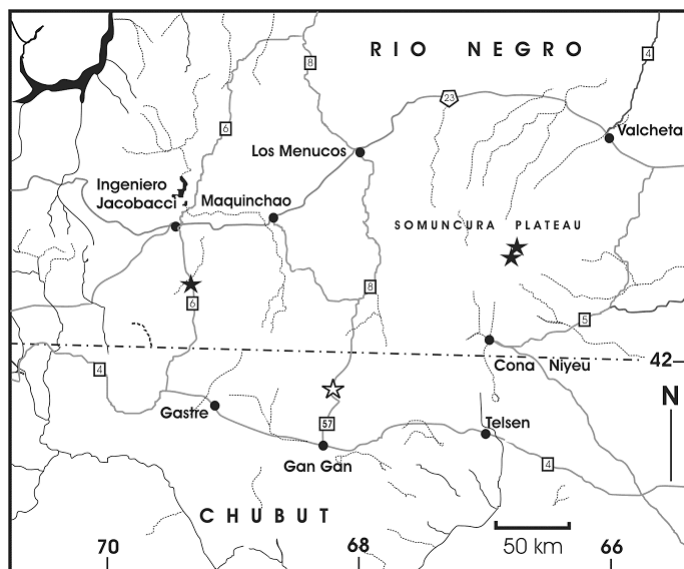


Fig. 1: The position of the new site (☆) relative to the known record localities (★) of *Liolaemus somuncurae* CEI & SCOLARO, 1981. Dotted lines - streams; dashed line - border between the states of Chubut and Río Negro (Argentina); gray lines - national and provincial roads.

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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