
Herpetological Review, 2002, 33(1), 69–74.
© 2002 by Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

New Distribution Records of Reptiles from Western Venezuela

ALLAN L. MARKEZICH

*Department of Natural Sciences & Engineering
Black Hawk College, 6600 34th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265-5899, USA
e-mail: markezicha@bhc1.bhc.edu*

The composition and geographic distribution of the herpetofauna of the central portion of western Venezuela is poorly understood primarily because of the limited amount of previous work there. This area is ecologically and physiographically diverse, including several Andean ecosystems at various elevations bordered by a relatively flat upper llanos system to the east of these (Reaud-Thomas 1989). The distributions of many Venezuelan reptilian species depicted in commonly used references (e.g., Roze 1966)

often exhibit gaps or other anomalies in this region, and only sparse and scattered records exist in the literature. This situation clearly precludes assessments of herpetofaunal species richness, diversity indices, percentage endemism, and other ecological parameters that are often important and relevant to current conservation and preservation efforts. The Andean area of western Venezuela has been shown to be very important with respect to the total diversity (i.e., species richness) of mammals and birds in Venezuela (Rodríguez and Rojas-Suárez 1996) but the inadequate knowledge of the this area's herpetofauna does not yet permit such conclusions about its contribution to the herpetofaunal diversity of Venezuela.

I have investigated various aspects of the west central Venezuelan herpetofauna in the field and in museum collections since 1990. This paper reports new regional records, new state records, and geographic range extensions for 44 species of reptiles (29 snakes, 13 lizards, and 2 amphisbaenians), mainly from llanos and piedmont physiographic areas in the state of Portuguesa and adjacent states of Barinas, Lara, and Trujillo. Previous geographic records of species were established by reference to works that document specimens from specific localities and/or from works involving comprehensive local checklists. I have refrained from referring to works that show only stippling or shading on distribution maps to represent a species range since the depicted range usually represents an inductive hypothesis (Tucker 1995) if not based upon evidence from specific records. Many recent works that document regional geographic distributions of reptiles and amphibians (e.g., Phillips et al. 1999) take the empirical approach used in the present paper.

The scant previous herpetological research in west central Venezuela is evident from the absence of specimens from this region in most museum collections. Over the years however, I have had the opportunity to examine the herpetological collection at the Museo de Ciencias Naturales (MCNG), Guanare, Estado Portuguesa, Venezuela. This museum is on the campus of the Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos Occidentales Ezequiel Zamora (UNELLEZ; coordinates 9°03'50"N, 69°48'30"W), which is a few kilometers from the west/northwestern edge of Guanare, the capital of the state of Portuguesa. It has a modest and well-curated herpetological collection containing specimens that have been collected primarily in the state of Portuguesa and secondarily in adjacent states since 1979. It also has specimens collected on various expeditions to other areas in Venezuela and type specimens from recently described species (e.g., Markezich and Taphorn 1994). All of the specimens reported upon in this paper are housed in this collection.

In this paper, subspecific names are used only if there has been a recent comprehensive variational study of the species (e.g., *Chironius carinatus* by Dixon et al. 1993), and taxa of uncertain affinity, several of which are currently under investigation by the author and others, have been omitted. Only one specimen of a conspecific series is listed from one locality, and separate localities within a state are reported if they represent significantly different geographic, physiographic, and/or ecological areas. Geographic coordinates have not been inferred from locality data, and are given only where directly recorded. Distances via roads are designated as such in this paper, and other distances between two points are linear. For brevity, I have used the abbreviation "Edo."

for the phrase "the state of" in many cases. For ease of reference, the following information and coordinates are for two localities near Guanare that frequently appear in the list of species but may be difficult to locate on some maps: La Colonia (9°03'19"N, 69°48'58"W), 3 km westnorthwest of northwestern edge of Guanare; Mesa de Cavacas (cited as "Mesa Cavaca" on some maps; 9°04'22"N, 69°48'42"W), 7 km north of northwestern edge of Guanare on the road to Biscucuy. I have also refrained from comments pertaining to variation and taxonomy of the specimens reported upon in this paper, except in one case, and have examined all of the listed specimens.

Anomalepidae

Liotyphlops albirostris. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Guanare. 31 May 1979. No collector listed in catalogue. Verified by J. R. Dixon. MCNG 836. First record from Portuguesa, ca. 170 km ENE of nearest record from Mérida, Edo. Mérida, where the only other specimens in west central Venezuela are known (Dixon and Kofron 1983).

Boidae

Boa constrictor. BARINAS: Municipio Bolivar: Rancho Luna, Barinitas. 30 June 1981. D. Gonzalez. MCNG 540; PORTUGUESA: Municipio San Genaro de Boconoito: San Nicolás. 13 November 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 716. All specimens verified by T. Horger. First record from Barinas and range extension of 80 km S of nearest record from Aparición in Portuguesa (Roze 1966).

Corallus ruschenbergerii. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 20 July 1983. S. Reid. Verified by D.C. Taphorn. MCNG 732. First record from Portuguesa, ca. 160 km WNW of record from Edo. Barinas (Henderson 1997).

Epicrates cenchria. BARINAS: Municipio Rojas: Hato San Pancraccio, Santa Rosa. 28 May 1981. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 495; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Papelón: 20–40 km (road) SE Guanare on Guanare-Guanarito Rd. 8 July 1993, 2100–2300 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1480. All specimens verified by T. Horger. First records from Barinas and Portuguesa, extending range ca. 200 km E of the first records from west central Venezuela in Edo. Mérida (La Marca and Soriano 1995; Roze 1966).

Colubridae

Atractus univittatus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 11 December 1990. D. C. Taphorn. MCNG 1239; Municipio Guanare: 12 km (road) S Rio Guanare bridge on Guanare-Biscucuy Rd. 7 July 1993. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1479. Both specimens verified by J. R. Dixon. First records from western Venezuela. This species was previously known only from the holotype from the Caracas region and one specimen from Estado Miranda, ca. 400 km NW of the records reported here. The two MCNG specimens recorded above and two others in MCNG from the same area in Portuguesa match the original description of Jan (1862) and that given by Roze (1966) in most details of scalation and color pattern of this species. However, there is an inconsistency in reported infralabial number in the literature. The figured type specimen of Jan (1862, 11th Livr., PL. II) and the specimens from Portuguesa have seven infralabials while Roze (1966) and other general references have cited six for this species apparently

based upon the specimen from Edo. Miranda that he examined. Thus the species should be considered to have 6–7 infralabials, a common range of variation in this character in colubrids. The temporal number of 2+2 figured and cited by Jan (1862) for the holotype was also a variant, as the specimen examined by Roze (1966) and the series examined here from Portuguesa have 1+2 temporals. Thus, this species should be considered to have 1+2 or 2+2 temporals.

Chironius carinatus spixi. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: UNELLEZ campus. 21 November 1990, 0900 h. A. L. Markezich. MCNG 1251; Municipio San Genaro de Boconoito: San Nicolás. 16 August 1981. G. Rios. MCNG 538; Municipio undetermined: carretera Guanare-Guanarito. 19 October 1980. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 105. All specimens verified by T. Horger. Dixon et al. (1993) reported several specimens from the northern part of this state near Acarigua, and another was recently reported from Biscucuy in the northwestern piedmont of the state (Esqueda and La Marca 1999). The specimens reported here extend the range 75 km from these records and document the existence of this species in central and southwestern Portuguesa.

Dipsas variegata. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Monseñor José Vicente de Unda: Chabasquen, Cerro Mollejon. 30 September 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 787. First record from western Venezuela, ca. 350 km WSW of nearest known records from Distrito Federal (Roze 1966).

Erythrolamprus bizonus. BARINAS: Municipio Antonio Jose de Sucre: Socopo. 22 March 1981. M. Soto. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 943; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: UNELLEZ, Mesa de Cavacas. 6 August 1984. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 866; Municipio Guanare: Guanare, Jardín “Centro de Bellas Artes.” 29 October 1986. R. Zapata. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 942; TRUJILLO: Municipio Boconó: 28 km (road) SW Campo Elías on road to Boconó, 9°18'16"N, 70°10'03"W, 1580 m elev. 27 May 1998, 1100 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. Verified by T. Horger. MCNG 1601. First records from Barinas and Portuguesa, filling the middle of a previous range gap of ca. 500 km from north central Venezuela to Edo. Táchira in southwestern Venezuela (Roze 1966).

Helicops angulatus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Papelón: 40 km (road) SE Guanare on Guanare-Guanarito Rd. 10 July 1993, 1030 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1498. First record of this locally common species from Portuguesa and only record of this species in western Venezuela other than those cited by Roze (1966) from Edo. Zulia, ca. 300 km west. The nearest llanos record is from Edo. Apure, ca. 230 km SE of the Portuguesa locality reported here (Staton and Dixon 1977).

Helicops pastazae. BARINAS: Municipio Ezequiel Zamora: upper reaches of Rio Caparo. 13 February 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by D. A. Rossman. MCNG 737. New record from Barinas. Markezich and Rossman (1992) incorrectly reported the locality of this specimen as being in Edo. Portuguesa due to an error in the MCNG catalogue. The locality in Barinas is ca. 130 km NE of the only other known record of this species in west central Venezuela cited by these authors from Edo. Táchira.

Imantodes cenchoa. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Papelón: 24 km (road) SE Guanare on Guanare-Guanarito Rd. 9 July 1993, 2350 h. A. L.

Markezich and O. J. León. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 1489. Second record from west central Venezuela, ca. 200 km ENE of nearest record from Edo. Mérida (Esqueda and La Marca 1999).

Leptodeira annulata ashmeadi. BARINAS: Municipio Barinas: Barinas. 29 January 1980. E. La Marca and G. Carrillo. MCNG 437; Municipio Rojas: Hato San Pancracio, Sta. Rosa. 31 December 1982. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 547; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 13 July 1993. D. C. Taphorn. MCNG 1503; Municipio Guanarito: Palmar de Morrones, Guanarito. 30 September 1981. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 427; Municipio San Genaro de Boconoito: represa de Tucupido. 12 May 1989. M. Guttierrez. MCNG 1083; Municipio San Rafael de Onoto: San Rafael de Onoto. 12 May 1984. MCNG 1255; Municipio undetermined: 20–40 km (road) SE Guanare on Guanare-Guanarito Rd. 8 July 1993, 2200 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1483. All specimens verified by P. Pacheco. First records of this common species from Barinas and Portuguesa, with most distant Portuguesa and Barinas records ca. 250 km ENE and 180 km E, respectively, of nearest record from Edo. Mérida (Duellman 1958; Roze 1966).

Leptophis ahaetulla. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Guanare, carrera 6 frente a Malariología. 8 May 1987, 0900 h. J. V. Paez. MCNG 990; Municipio Monseñor José Vicente de Unda: Chabasquen. 5 November 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 729. Both specimens verified by P. Pacheco. First records from Portuguesa, ca. 180 km SSW of nearest record from Edo. Yaracuy (Roze 1966).

Liophis lineatus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 19 December 1990. D.C. Taphorn and L. M. Page. MCNG 1250; Municipio Guanarito: N of Guanarito, 5.3 km (road) E of Guanare-Guanarito Rd. on road to La Trinidad, 8°43'33"N, 69°11'44"W, 50 m elev. 1 May 1998. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. Verified by T. Horger. MCNG 1609. Known from Acarigua in northern Portuguesa (Roze 1966), these specimens extend the range 80 km SW and 100 km S in this state. Records from Portuguesa are apparently rare, as Michaud and Dixon (1987) did not include specimens from this state in their recent comprehensive revision of this species.

Liophis melanotus melanotus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Sucre: 4 km (road) N Las Guafas, 21 November 1990, 1500 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1608; Municipio Guanare: Guanare. 17 November 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. All specimens verified by T. Horger. Localities are 75 km SW and SSW of documented specimens from the Acarigua area of northern Portuguesa (Dixon and Michaud 1992).

Mastigodryas bifossatus. BARINAS: Municipio Rojas: Hato San Pancracio, Santa Rosa. 31 December 1982. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 545; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: 15 km E Guanare, Finca Robalito. 29 November 1990. C. Lileyston. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 467; Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 29 July 1991. D. C. Taphorn. MCNG 1388. All specimens verified by P. Pacheco. First records from west central Venezuela, representing the westernmost records in Venezuela, ca. 250 km WSW and W of nearest records from Edo. Guárico (Roze 1966).

Ninia atrata. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: UNELLEZ campus, Mesa de Cavacas. February 21, 1984. A. Garcia. Verified by

P. Pacheco; MCNG 740. First record from Portuguesa, filling the middle of a significant range gap of ca. 500 km from north central Venezuela to Edo. Táchira in southwestern Venezuela (Roze 1966).

Oxyrhopus petola. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 23 October 1983. MCNG 767; Municipio Monseñor José Vicente de Unda: Chabasquen, Cerro Mollejon. 20 May 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 765; Municipio Papelón: 27 km (road) SE Guanare on Guanare-Guanarito Rd. 9 July 1993, 2300 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1486. All specimens verified by P. Pacheco. First records from Portuguesa extending range ca. 200–225 km NE and E of first record from west central Venezuela in Edo. Mérida (Esqueda and La Marca 1999; Roze 1966).

Pseudoboa newiedii. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: UNELLEZ campus, pabellon "E." 11 February 1991. O. J. León. MCNG 1328; Municipio Papelón: 22 km (road) SE Guanare on Guanare-Guanarito Rd. 13 July 1993, 2130 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1504. All specimens verified by T. Horger. First records from Edo. Portuguesa, ca. 150 km SW of nearest record from Edo. Yaracuy (Roze 1966).

Sibon nebulata. BARINAS: Municipio Rojas: Hato San Pancraccio, Sta. Rosa. 17 August 1980. B. Bockma and C. Ramo. MCNG 67; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Monseñor José Vicente de Unda: Cerro Mollejon, Chabasquen. 25 March 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 784; Municipio Papelón: 26 km (road) SE Guanare on Guanare-Guanarito Rd. 10 July 1993, 2030 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1496. All specimens verified by P. Pacheco. Roze (1966) reported the nearest record from Agua Blanca near the northernmost tip of Portuguesa. The specimens represent a new state record from Barinas, ca. 150 km S of Agua Blanca, and range extensions in Portuguesa of 80 km WSW and 90 km SSW of Agua Blanca.

Spilotes pullatus. BARINAS: Municipio Rojas: Hato San Pancracia, Sta. Rosa. 31 May 1981. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 546; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 27 April 1980. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 775; Municipio Ospino: 7.8 km (road) N Estación, 9°25'01"N, 69°32'55"W, 960 m elevation. 26 May 1998. A. L. Markezich. MCNG 2004; Municipio undetermined: carretera Guanare-Guanarito. 3 September 1980. B. Bockma and C. Ramo. MCNG 89. All specimens verified by T. Horger. First record from these states, ca. 120–180 km E of nearest records from Edos. Mérida and Trujillo (Roze 1966; La Marca and Soriano 2000).

Tantilla melanocephala. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: UNELLEZ campus, Mesa de Cavacas. 16 June 1981. C. Briceno. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 831; Municipio Sucre: 22 km (road) N Mesa de Cavacas. 23 July 1991, 2200 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. Verified by T. Horger. MCNG 1603. This is only the second report of this species in west central Venezuela, ca. 170 km ENE of nearest record from Edo. Mérida (Wilson and Mena 1980).

Elapidae

Micrurus isozonus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: UNELLEZ campus. 28 November 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by D.C. Taphorn. MCNG 725; Municipio Ospino: Esparanza, 10.6 km (road) N of intersection with road to Estación, 9°27'27"N,

69°30'49"W, 780 m elev. 10 May 1998, 0900 h. Verified by T. Horger. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. MCNG 1610. These specimens extend the range of this species in Portuguesa ca. 65 km SSW of nearest known record from Aparición (Roze 1966).

Micrurus mipartitus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Monseñor José Vicente de Unda: Chabasquen, Cerro Mollejon. 30 November 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 776; Municipio Sucre: Biscucuy. 1989. A. Mejias. Verified by T. Horger. MCNG 1344. First records from Portuguesa filling a range gap of ca. 300 km between previous records from Edo. Yaracuy and Edo. Mérida (Roze 1966, 1996).

Leptotyphlopidae

Leptotyphlops albifrons. LARA: Municipio Iribarren: Barquisimeto. 31 March 1979. B. Bockma. MCNG 834; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Guanare. 31 May 1979. No collector listed in catalogue. MCNG 833. Both specimens verified by J. R. Dixon. First record from west central Venezuela, ca. 250 km SSW of nearest record from Edo. Falcón (Roze 1966).

Leptotyphlops macrolepis. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Mesa de Cavacas. 9 September 1990. J. L. Atuve. Verified by J. R. Dixon. MCNG 1124. This specimen extends the range of this species in Portuguesa 65 km SSW of the nearest record from Aparición in this state (Roze 1966).

Typhlopidae

Typhlops reticulatus. BARINAS: Municipio Antonio Jose de Sucre: Socopo. 22 March 1981. E. La Marca. MCNG 943. Verified by P. Pacheco; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Papelón: 5 km (road) SE Papelón, Finca Palma Sola, 8°42'18"N, 69°13'02"W, 70 m elev. 28 April 1998. O. Castillo. Verified by T.H. Horger. MCNG 1604. First record from Barinas and a range extension of 80 km S of a recently reported specimen from Acarigua in Portuguesa (Rivas et al. 2001). This species has seldom been recorded from Venezuela, and these specimens represent the second and third ones from the upper llanos of western Venezuela (Dixon and Hendricks 1979).

Viperidae

Bothrops venezuelensis. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Monseñor José Vicente de Unda: Chabasquen, Cerro Mollejon. 29 February 1984. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 874. First record from Portuguesa. Campbell and Lamar (1989) pointed out conflicts in the literature with respect to the geographic distribution of this species and listed several states in Venezuela from which it is reliably known including Lara, adjacent to Portuguesa, without mentioning specific localities. A specific record from Lara was recently reported (Esqueda and La Marca 1999) from a locality ca. 30 km NE of the specimen from Portuguesa recorded here.

Crotalus durissus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanarito: Palmar de Morrones. 31 January 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 735. First record from Portuguesa ca. 150 km SW of nearest record from Edo. Trujillo (Roze 1966).

Gekkonidae

Gonatodes vittatus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Monseñor José Vicente de Unda: Paraiso de Chabasquen, 9°25'56"N, 69°56'48"W, elevation 590 m. 22 April 1998, 1530 h. A. L. Markezich. Verified by T. Horger. MCNG 1605. First record from Portuguesa, ca. 125 km

NE of records from Edo. Mérida (Rivero-Blanco 1979).

Hemidactylus palaichthus. BARINAS: Municipio Bolivar: Barinitas, 8°45'21"N, 70°24'48"W, 440 m. 18 May 1998, 1030–1200 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. Verified by T. Horger. MCNG 1613; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Barrio La Arenosa, Guanare. 19 June 1981. H. Cuevas. Verified by A. Bauer and T. Russell. MCNG 417; Municipio Guanarito: Palmar de Morrones. 21 November 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by A. Bauer and T. Russell. MCNG 676. First records from west central Venezuela, ca. 150 km WNW and 130 km NNW of nearest records from near Bruzual, Edo. Apure (Staton and Dixon 1977).

Phyllodactylus ventralis. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia, 9°03'19"N, 69°48'58"W. 2 November 1987. D.C. Taphorn. MCNG 1127; Municipio Guanare: Guanare. 19 July 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 674; Municipio San Genaro de Boconoito: represa del Rio Boconó. 22 November 1982. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 401. All specimens verified by P. Pacheco. These specimens extend the range 50–80 km SW of nearest records from the Acarigua and Aparición areas of northern Portuguesa (Dixon and Huey 1970).

Iguanidae

Iguana iguana. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanarito: Guanarito. 6 July 1980. B. Bockma and C. Ramos. MCNG 48; Municipio Guanare: Guanare, Barrio Colombia, 26 June 1983. Y. Hernandez. MCNG 442. All specimens verified by P. Pacheco. While it is generally recognized that this species occurs in much of Venezuela, documented records are scarce (Avila-Peres 1995). This is apparently the first record of it from west central Venezuela, 130 km NNW of records near Bruzual, Edo. Apure (Staton and Dixon 1977).

Polychrotidae

Anolis auratus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Guanare, Urb. Hato Modelo. 17 March 1980. B. Bockma and C. Ramo. MCNG 22; Municipio Guanare: UNELLEZ, Mesa de Cavacas. 6 September 1983. B. Bockma and C. Ramo. MCNG 853. All specimens verified by E. E. Williams. First records from Portuguesa, 80 km S of nearest record from Edo. Barinas (Avila-Peres 1995; Donoso-Barros 1968).

Anolis nitens nitens. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Mesa de Cavacas. 22 April 1980. MCNG 802; Municipio San Genaro de Boconoito: Rio Tucupido, arriba represa. 8 April 1983. MCNG 800. Both specimens collected by B. Busto and C. Ramo and verified by E. E. Williams. First records from Portuguesa, ca. 200 km SW of nearest records from Edo. Yaracuy (Vanzolini and Williams 1970).

Polychrus marmoratus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: UNELLEZ campus. 20 June 1991. M. Gonzalez. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 1357. First record from west central Venezuela, ca. 250 km SE of nearest record from Edo. Carabobo (Avila-Peres 1995).

Tropiduridae

Tropidurus hispidus. BARINAS: Municipio Rojas: Hato San Pancracia, Sta. Rosa. 27 November 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 651; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Fundo Sabana

Grande, Tucupido. 26 June 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 649; Municipio Guanare: Guanare. 15 May 1982. C. A. Rodriguez. MCNG 647; Municipio Guanarito: El Palmar de Morrones, Guanarito. 21 November 1983. MCNG 657. All specimens verified by P. Pacheco. First records from Portuguesa. The Portuguesa records are 80 km NNE and the Barinas records 80 km E of nearest record from Barinas in Edo. Barinas (Avila-Peres 1995; Donoso-Barros 1968).

Teiidae

Ameiva ameiva. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Fundo Sabana Grande, Tucupido. 26 June 1983. MCNG 620; Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 17 June 1984. MCNG 793; Municipio Guanarito: Guanarito. 21 November 1983. MCNG 588. All specimens collected by B. Busto and C. Ramo and verified by P. Pacheco. First records from Portuguesa, ca. 80 km NNE of nearest record from Barinas in Edo. Barinas (Avila-Peres 1995; Donoso-Barros 1968).

Cnemidophorus gramivagus. BARINAS: Municipio Sosa: Puerto de Nutrias, just E of lower portion of Rio Apure bridge. 22 June 1996, 1800–1900 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. Verified by C. J. Cole. MCNG 1606; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Urb. Fundaguanare, Guanare. 23 April 1981. C. Briceno. Verified by T. Horger. MCNG 328; Municipio Guanarito: 9.7 km (road) SW Guanarito. 21 June 1996, 1800–1900 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. Verified by C. J. Cole. MCNG 1607. First records from Barinas and Portuguesa and previously known only from Edo. Apure in Venezuela. These specimens extend the range ca. 150 km NNW of nearest Apure record (McCrystal and Dixon 1987).

Tupinambis teguixin. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 17 June 1984. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 796. First record of this species from Portuguesa, ca. 130 km NNW of nearest record from Edo. Barinas (Donoso-Barros 1968).

Gymnophthalmidae

Bachia heteropa lineata. PORTUGUESA: Municipio San Genaro de Boconoito: Rio Tucupido, arriba represa. 2 February 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. Verified by J. R. Dixon. MCNG 750. First record from Portuguesa, extending the range (distance undetermined) N of record from western Edo. Barinas (Dixon 1973).

Gymnophthalmus speciosus. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: La Colonia. 19 December 1990. A. L. Markezich and D. C. Taphorn. Verified by C. J. Cole. MCNG 1249; UNELLEZ campus. 18 March 1985. R. Thourex. Verified by P. Pacheco. MCNG 1316. Specimens extend range 90 km S of nearest record from the Acarigua area of Portuguesa (Cole et al. 1990).

Amphisbaenidae

Amphisbaena alba. BARINAS: Municipio Ezequiel Zamora: Pedraza. 25 April 1981. E. La Marca. MCNG 860; LARA: Municipio Urdaneta: 12 km (road) W Santa Inés. 27 November 1990. A. L. Markezich. MCNG 1128; PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare: Colonia. 21 November 1990. A. L. Markezich. MCNG 1115; Municipio Sucre: Biscucuy. 20 August 1983. B. Busto and C. Ramo. MCNG 553. All specimens verified by P. Pacheco and D. C. Taphorn. First records from these three states in west central Venezuela representing distances of ca. 225 km SSW, 150 km NE, and 80 km SE of nearest record from Edo. Trujillo in this region

(Donoso-Barros 1968; Esqueda and La Marca 1999; Gans 1962). *Amphisbaena fuliginosa*. PORTUGUESA: Municipio Sucre: 4 km (road) N Las Guafas on Guanare-Biscucuy Rd. 21 November 1990, 1500 h. A. L. Markezich and O. J. León. Verified by D. C. Taphorn. MCNG 1116. First record of this species in west central Venezuela, ca. 250 km SE of nearest records from Edo. Falcón (Donoso-Barros 1968; Vanzolini 1951).

Acknowledgments.—I am grateful to my colleagues and friends at UNELLEZ and MCNG—Donald C. Taphorn, Pedro Pacheco, and Juan Elías García-Pérez—for furnishing museum resources and many other kinds of assistance during the course of my studies there. Special thanks go to Oscar León of UNELLEZ for his reliable and cheerful assistance with critical fieldwork for many years, often for long periods of time under demanding conditions. Tim Horger of Illinois Valley Community College also provided much-needed help with fieldwork. I also thank all those mentioned in this paper who verified specimen identifications, as well as Alan Resetar (Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago) and Jose Rosado (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University) for various types of help. I appreciate the support and patience of my family, Madelynn and Matthew, during this project. The extensive collecting efforts in the 1980's of B. Busto and C. Ramo, two people whom I have never met and formerly of UNELLEZ and MCNG, contributed significantly to our knowledge of the herpetofauna of west central Venezuela. Fieldwork was made possible by the PROFAUNA division of the Venezuelan Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales Renovables (MARNR), Caracas, who kindly issued collecting permits over the years. This project was funded in part by the National Geographic Society (grant 6176-98) to the author.

LITERATURE CITED

- AVILA-PERES, T. C. S. 1995. Lizards of Brazilian Amazonia (Reptilia: Squamata). *Zool. Verh. Leiden* 299: 706 pp.
- CAMPBELL, J. A., AND W. W. LAMAR. 1989. *The Venomous Reptiles of Latin America*. Comstock Publ. Assoc., Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, New York. 425 pp.
- COLE, C. J., H. C. DESSAUER, C. R. TOWNSEND, AND M. G. ARNOLD. 1990. Unisexual lizards of the genus *Gymnophthalmus* (Reptilia: Teiidae) in the Neotropics: genetics, origin, and systematics. *Amer. Museum Novitates* 2994: 29 pp.
- DIXON, J. R. 1973. A systematic review of the teiid lizards, genus *Bachia*, with remarks on *Heterodactylus* and *Anotosaura*. *Univ. Kansas, Mus. Nat. Hist., Misc. Pub.* 57: 47 pp.
- _____, AND F. S. HENDRICKS. 1979. The wormsnakes (Family Typhlopidae) of the neotropics, exclusive of the Antilles. *Zool. Verhand.* 173:3–39.
- _____, AND R. B. HUEY. 1970. Systematics of the lizards of the gekkonid genus *Phyllodactylus* of mainland South America. *Los Angeles County Mus. Contrib. Sci.* 192: 78 pp.
- _____, AND C. P. KOFRON. 1983. The Central and South American anomalepid snakes of the genus *Liotyphlops*. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 4:241–264.
- _____, AND E. J. MICHAUD. 1992. Shaw's black-headed snake (*Liophis melanotus*) (Serpentes: Colubridae) of northern South America. *J. Herpetol.* 26:250–259.
- _____, J. A. WIEST, AND J. M. CEI. 1993. Revision of the neotropical snake genus *Chironius* Fitzinger (Serpentes, Colubridae). *Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino, Monog.* XIII:1–279.
- DONOSO-BARROS, R. 1968. The lizards of Venezuela (check list and key). *Carib. J. Sci.* 8:105–122.
- DUELLMAN, W. E. 1958. A monographic study of the colubrid snake genus *Leptodeira*. *Bull. Amer. Mus. of Nat. History* 114: 152 pp.
- ESQUEDA, L. F., AND E. LA MARCA. 1999. New reptilian species records from the Cordillera de Mérida, Andes of Venezuela. *Herpetol. Rev.* 30:238–240.
- GANS, C. 1962. Notes on amphisbaenids (Amphisbaenia: Reptilia). 5. A redefinition and a bibliography of *Amphisbaena alba* Linné. *Amer. Mus. Novitates* 2105: 31 pp.
- HENDERSON, R. W. 1997. A taxonomic review of the *Corallus hortulanus* complex of neotropical tree boas. *Caribbean J. of Sci.* 33:198–221.
- JAN, G. 1862. Enumerazione sistematica delle specie d'ofidi del gruppo Calamaridae. *Arch. Zool. Anat. Fis., Genova* 2 (1):1–76.
- LA MARCA, E., AND P. J. SORIANO. 1995. Geographic distribution. *Epicrates cenheria cenheria*. *Herpetol. Rev.* 26:109.
- _____, AND _____. 2000. Geographic distribution. *Spilotes pullatus*. *Herpetol. Rev.* 31:57–58.
- MARKEZICH, A. L., AND D. A. ROSSMAN. 1992. Geographic distribution. *Helicops pastazae*. *Herpetol. Rev.* 23:124.
- _____, AND D. C. TAPHORN. 1994. A new *Lepidoblepharis* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from the Paraguaná Peninsula, Venezuela, with comments on its conservation status. *Herpetologica* 50 (1):7–14.
- MCCRystal, H. K., AND J. R. DIXON. 1987. A new species of *Cnemidophorus* from the llanos of Colombia and Venezuela. *J. Herpetol.* 21:245–254.
- MICHAUD, E. J., AND J. R. DIXON. 1987. Taxonomic revision of the *Liophis lineatus* complex (Reptilia: Colubridae) of Central and South America. *Milwaukee Publ. Mus., Contrib. Biol. Geol.* 71: 26 pp.
- PHILLIPS, C. A., R. A. BRANDON, AND E. O. MOLL. 1999. *Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Illinois*. Illinois Natural History Survey, Manual 8. 300 pp.
- REAUD-THOMAS, G. 1989. Vegetation et utilisation du sol dans la region Guanare-Masporro. *In: Trav. et Doc. de Geographie Tropicale, CEGET-CNRS, Venezuela, Environment et Changements*, 63(2):137–201.
- RIVAS, G., C. R. MOLINA, AND O. FUENTES. 2001. Geographic distribution. *Typhlops reticulatus*. *Herpetol. Rev.* 32:126.
- RIVERO-BLANCO, C. 1979. The neotropical lizard genus *Gonatodes* Fitzinger (Sauria: Sphaerodactylinae). Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. 233 pp.
- RODRÍGUEZ, J. P., AND F. ROJAS-SUÁREZ. 1996. Guidelines for the design of conservation strategies for the animals of Venezuela. *Conserv. Biol.* 10:1245–1252.
- ROZE, J. A. 1966. *La Taxonomia y Zoogeographia de los Ophidios de Venezuela*. Univ. Central de Venezuela, Edic. Biblioteca 28. Caracas. 362 pp.
- _____. 1996. *Coral Snakes of the Americas*. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida. 328 pp.
- STATON, M. A., AND J. R. DIXON. 1977. The herpetofauna of the central llanos of Venezuela: noteworthy records, a tentative checklist and ecological notes. *J. Herpetol.* 11:17–24.
- TUCKER, J. K. 1995. To stipple or not to stipple. *Herpetol. Rev.* 26: 88–90.
- VANZOLINI, P. E. 1951. *Amphisbaena fuliginosa*. Contribution to the knowledge of the Brazilian lizards of the family Amphisbaenidae Gray, 1825. 6. On the geographical distribution and differentiation of *Amphisbaena fuliginosa* Linné. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 106, no. 1. 67 pp.
- _____, AND E. E. WILLIAMS. 1970. South American anoles: the geographic differentiation and evolution of the *Anolis chrysolepis* species group (Sauria, Iguanidae) *Arq. Zool., Sao Paulo* 19: 298 pp.
- WILSON, L. D., AND C. E. MENA. 1980. Systematics of the *melanocephala* group of the colubrid genus *Tantilla*. *Mem. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.* 11: 58 pp.