Appendix

Specimens of *Sphenomorphus* from Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea examined from BPBM.


PreviouSly known as *Oxyrhopus venezuelanus* Shreve, 1947, this snake is a colubrid species belonging to the subfamily Xenodontinae, originally described on the basis of a single specimen from the population ‘El Paují’, Acosta municipality, Falcón State, Venezuela. A recent revision revealed that this name is a junior synonym of *Oxyrhopus dolius* Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854 (Zaher & Caramaschi, 2000); however, these authors did not specify the type locality of the species, which will be necessary to ascertain in the future, although Brazil is assumed to be the locality. The taxon is known from the Aragua, Carabo, Miranda, Vargas and Yaracuy States, and Capital District (Roze, 1966; Peters & Orejas-Miranda, 1970; Manzanilla et al., 1996; Kornacker, 1999; Rivas, 2002). Until the present time, its known distribution was restricted exclusively to the premontane forest, between 10–500 m asl, in the Coastal Range and Serranía of San Luis, respectively. The species was reported for first time in the Venezuelan Andes, specifically in the region of Esque, Trujiillo State, by Esqueda et al. (2007:92). Seven
additional specimens previously catalogued confirm its presence in the Mérida, Lara and Trujillo states, as follows: EBRG 4383, coming from El Guape, Crespo municipality, Lara State, 10°17’N, 69°08’W, approx., 715 m; CVULA 3150, La Azulita, 2000 m, Andrés Bello municipality, Mérida State; CVULA 2426, 9 Km SW Quebrada Azul (road La Azulita), 1000 m asl; CVULA 3661, La Azulita, Cuchilla de San Rafael, 1400 m asl; ULABG 2952, La Azulita, 915 m asl; ULABG 6827, Candelitas, road Escuque, Escuque municipality, Trujillo State; ULABG 5694, between Escuque and Las Palmas, 1436 m, Escuque municipality, Trujillo State (Figure 1).

Unlike the Andean populations, where the species occur at higher elevations in environments corresponding to cloud forests and montane semicaducifolious forest, snakes from northern Venezuela occur at lower elevations. This taxon is ecologically sympatric with other false coral snakes that exhibits a mimetic coloration (batesian mimicry), such as *Erythrolamprus bizona* Jan, 1863, *Erythrolamprus pseudocorallus* Roze, 1959, *Oxyrhopus petola* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Lampropeltis triangulum andesiana* Williams, 1978 (Roze, 1966, 1996; Barrios & Navarrete, 1999; Esqueda & La Marca 1999; Mijares-Urrutia & Arends, 2000; Navarrete & Rodriguez, 2003; Campbell & Lamar, 2004; La Marca & Soriano, 2004; Lotzkat, 2006). Nonetheless, *Oxyrhopus doliatus* is easily distinguished from its congeners by having a color pattern with bands clearly arranged in two designs (Figure 2). The anterior third of the body has black bands wider than white bands, similar to the pattern exhibited by *Micrurus mipartitus* (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854). The remaining portion of the body has red bands wider than black bands, these limited to both sides by narrow white bands,
(Manzanilla et al., 1996; Mijares-Urrutia & Arends, 2000), the species is uncommon. Actually our Andean environments are being subjected to strong impacts from human activities, principally on forested ecosystems. In consideration of its apparent scarcity, mimetic coloration, and the threats that exist to its habitats, we recommend including this species on the red list of Venezuela as an endangered species.

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