

# Record of the colubrid snake *Philodryas simonsii* Boulenger from Chile

DANIEL PINCHEIRA-DONOSO

Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Oceanográficas, Universidad de Concepción, Casilla 160-C, Concepción, Chile. E-mail: dpinchei@udec.cl

THE genus *Philodryas* (sensu Thomas, 1977), is represented in Chile by four species (Donoso-Barros, 1965, 1966, 1970; Peters & Orejas-Miranda, 1970): *P. chamissonis* (with two subspecies: *P. c. chamissonis* and *P. c. eremicola*), endemic to Chile, is the most widely distributed, ranging from Second Administrative Region (25°S) to Tenth Administrative Region (40°S); *P. elegans* (with two subspecies, *P. e. elegans* and *P. e. rufodoratus*), of which the the nominal form has been recorded only from Arica's valleys (south of 18°S), in First Administrative Region; *P. tachymenoides*, reported only from Arica's valleys; and *P. simonsii*, represented by a literature record from Arica's valleys (Thomas, 1977).

The species *Philodryas simonsii* has been reported from three South American countries; Ecuador, Perú, and Chile (Donoso-Barros, 1965, 1966, 1970; Peters & Orejas-Miranda, 1970; Thomas, 1977; Veloso & Navarro, 1988). Donoso-Barros (1966) reported the species from northern Chile, but did not mention voucher specimens. Veloso & Navarro (1988) followed Thomas' arrangement, and included this species in their list of Chilean reptiles. Núñez & Jaksic (1992) deleted *P. simonsii* from the Chilean herpetofauna because of its occurrence in the highlands of Perú and Ecuador (fide Peters & Orejas-Miranda, 1986), and because of the absence of specimens collected in Chile.

A young male (snout-vent length 272 mm, tail incomplete) *Philodryas simonsii*, (Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Chile, MNHN 3480) from Pampa Colorado, North of Arica, First Administrative Region of Chile, was collected in December 1999. Its characters, including colour, agree with descriptions of the species by Donoso Barros (1966) and Thomas (1977): Ventral plates 183; smooth dorsal scales; anal plate divided; nasals completely divided; prefrontals not contacting

supralabials, small loreal; preoculars 1/1; postoculars 2/2; temporals 1+2+2/1+2+2; supralabials 8/8, fourth and fifth contacting the eye; infralabials 10/10, with the first pair in contact behind mental.

The discovery of this specimen confirms the occurrence of *Philodryas simonsii* in Chile, as originally intimated by Donoso-Barros (1965, 1966, 1970).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Herman Núñez, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Chile, for helpful comments on the manuscript.

## REFERENCES

- Donoso-Barros, R. (1965). Las serpientes. Ser. *Educ. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Chile* 2, 1-24.
- Donoso-Barros, R. (1966). *Reptiles de Chile*. Santiago: Ed. Univ. Chile.
- Donoso-Barros, R. (1970). Catálogo herpetológico chileno. *Bol. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Chile* 31, 49-124.
- Núñez, H. & Jaksic, F. (1992). Lista comentada de los reptiles terrestres de Chile continental. *Bol. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Chile* 43, 63-91.
- Peters, J.A. & Orejas-Miranda, B. (1970). Catalogue of the neotropical Squamata. Part I. Snakes. *Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.* 297, 1-347.
- Peters, J.A. & Orejas-Miranda, B. (1986). Catalogue of the neotropical Squamata with new material by P. E. Vanzolini. Part I. Snakes. Ed. revised. *Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.* 297, 1-347.
- Thomas, R.A. (1977). A new generic arrangement for *Incaspis* and mainland South American *Alsophis* and the status of two additional Peruvian species. *Copeia* 1977, 648-652.
- Veloso, A. & Navarro, J. (1988). Lista sistemática y distribución geográfica de anfibios y reptiles de Chile. *Boll. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino* 6, 481-539.