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**TYPHLOPS BRONGERSMIANUS
VANZOLINI AND LIOPHIS
ALMADENSIS (WAGLER): TWO NEW
RECORDS FOR THE SNAKE FAUNA
OF THE PROVINCE OF FORMOSA,
ARGENTINA**

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El Bagual Ecological Reserve (26° 10' 53" S - 58° 56' 39" W) was created in 1985 to protect northern seasonal moist natural habitats in the eastern part of the province of Formosa. Recent faunistic surveys on the ecology and distribution of snakes at El Bagual conducted by Yanosky and Mercolli, emphasized species composition because of the scarce knowledge of snake species in the province. Bergna & Alvarez (1990) were the first to present a systematic list of 20 snake species for the province of Formosa. Earlier, Yanosky (1989a,b) published two papers on the snakes of El Bagual Reserve, where he cited 19 species. The present contribution adds two additional species to the snake fauna of El Bagual Reserve, Formosa. Both species are new records for the province and *Liophis almadensis*, recently cited as a new record for Argentina by Bergna & Alvarez (1990), confirms its presence at the southern end of the "wet" Chaco of Argentina.

Typhlops brongersmianus Vanzolini. This species is represented by two specimens taken at El Bagual Reserve in September 1989 and 1991 by Yanosky and Mercolli. The 1989 specimen is now catalogued in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (TCWC 69413), the 1991 specimen is in El Bagual Herpetological Collection (REB-TO 002). Neither animal has been sexed. Both specimens were found on the surface among grasses of the genus *Paspalum* during daylight hours in a mixed low forest-savanna habitat. Both specimens have 20-20-20 dorsal scale rows, 287 dorsals from rear of snout shield to tip of tail, streaked rostral and no tail ring. The average number of pigmented dorsal scale rows is 11 (Dixon & Hendricks, 1979). Our specimens have 13 pigmented dorsal scale rows, and Cruz & Scrocchi (1989) reported a specimen assignable to *T. brongersmianus* with 15 rows of pigmented dorsal scales.

Typhlops brongersmianus has been recorded from the Argentine provinces of Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Misiones, Salta, Santa Fé, and Tucumán by Dixon & Hendricks (1979). The species was later recorded from the province of Chaco by Cruz & Scrocchi (1989). The latter province and the province of La Rioja were later included in the species distribution in a checklist of Argentine snakes by Williams & Francini (1991).

Liophis almadensis (Wagler). This species record is based upon six specimens taken at El Bagual Reserve in the months of October and November 1991. One specimen was donated to the Corrientes Herpetological Collection (CHC), one to the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (TCWC) and four remain in El Bagual Herpetological Collection (REB-LA). Three specimens are female, one is a male, and two remain unsexed. The habitat where five specimens were taken is highly varied. One came from beneath a potted plant in a human dwelling, one from within a termite mound one meter deep, and four came from savannas where *Paspalum* sp. is the common grass with an overstory of Leguminosae.

Measurements taken from five specimens showed a body mass of 16.7±8.34 g (range 11.5-31.5); snout-vent length of 31.5±4.07 cm (range 28.5-38.5) and total length of 37.7±1.56 cm (range 36.0-40.0). Scale characters of the head, body and tail are typical of the species presented by Dixon (1991) and easily assigned to specific level by Dixon's (1989) key.

Liophis almadensis is known to occur from Marajo Island, Brazil, south along the Atlantic coast to Rio Grande do Sul, westward to northern Bolivia and south to the Paraguayan Chaco (Dixon, 1991). Dixon's (1991) distribution of the species invalidated the specimens referred to as *Liophis almadensis* by Abalos & Mischis (1975), because no specimens existed in collections housing *Liophis* species from Argentina. Based upon Dixon's (1991) distribution map, Williams & Francini (1991) excluded *Liophis almadensis* from the Argentine snake fauna. Bergna & Alvarez (1990) cited the first recent records of *Liophis almadensis* from the provinces of Chaco and Misiones, Argentina.

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