



## A new species of the *Liolaemus elongatus* clade (Reptilia: Iguania: Liolaemini) from Cordillera del Viento, northwestern Patagonia, Neuquén, Argentina

LUCIANO JAVIER AVILA<sup>1,4</sup>, MARIANA MORANDO<sup>1</sup>,  
DANIEL ROBERTO PEREZ<sup>2</sup> & JACK W. SITES, JR<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CENPAT-CONICET. Boulevard Almirante Brown 2915, U9120ACD, Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina.

E-mail: avila@cenpat.edu.ar; morando@cenpat.edu.ar

<sup>2</sup>Escuela Superior de Salud y Ambiente, Universidad Nacional del Comahue. Buenos Aires 1400. 8300. Neuquén. Argentina.

E-mail: ddeneuquen@yahoo.com

<sup>3</sup>Department of Biology and M. L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young University, 401 WIDB, 84602, Provo, Utah, United States of America. E-mail: jack\_sites@byu.edu

<sup>4</sup>Corresponding author: E-mail: avila@cenpat.edu.ar

### Abstract

A new species of lizard of the genus *Liolaemus* from Cordillera del Viento, northwestern Neuquén Province, Argentina is described. The new species is a member of the Andean-Patagonian *Liolaemus elongatus* clade and is known only from a single locality above 3000 m in the eastern slopes of Domuyo Volcano. *Liolaemus antumalguen* sp. nov. is a stout species, saxicolous, probably viviparous and omnivorous, and seems to have low population density. It is easily differentiated from all other species of the *elongatus* complex for a highly variable but characteristic dorsal pattern and a completely black ventral coloration.

**Key words:** Sauria, Iguanidae, *Liolaemus antumalguen* sp. nov., new species

### Resumen

Una nueva especie de lagartija del genero *Liolaemus* de la Cordillera del Viento, noroeste de la provincia de Neuquén, Argentina, es descrita. La nueva especie es miembro del cclado andino-patagonico *Liolaemus elongatus* y es conocida solo para una unica localidad sobre los 3000 m de altura en el faldeo oriental del volcán Domuyo. *Liolaemus antumalguen* sp. nov. es una especie robusta, rupícola, probablemente vivípara y omnívora, y parece tener baja densidad poblacional. Se diferencia fácilmente de todas las otras especies del grupo por un patrón de coloración dorsal variable pero característico y por poseer la zona ventral completamente negra.

**Palabras claves:** Sauria, Iguanidae, *Liolaemus antumalguen* sp. nov., nueva especie

### Introduction

Lizards of the genus *Liolaemus* are a common vertebrate component of the Southern Andean and Patagonian biotas. With a number of described species reaching 225, the genus *Liolaemus* constitutes the most species-rich squamate genus of southern South America. During the last 15 years more than 50 species were described mainly in Argentina and Chile, and one of the main causes of this dramatic recent increase in the number of known species is that new collections are being made in previously unexplored areas throughout the Andes and Patagonia. Several new species limited to small basins, high-elevation valleys or single mountaintops, have been discovered in recent years in northwestern Patagonia and the Southern Andes (e.g. Abdala 2002, 2003, 2005; Avila *et al.* 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007a; Cei and Videla 2003; Etheridge and Christie 2003,