



A distinctive new species of wood lizard (Hopllocercinae, *Enyalioides*) from the Yanachaga Chemillen National Park in central Peru

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Abstract

We describe a new species of *Enyalioides* from a mid-elevation premontane forest in central Peru. This represents the seventh species of *Enyalioides* known to occur east of the Andes in South America; the other six species are *E. cofanorum*, *E. laticeps*, *E. microlepis*, *E. palpebralis*, *E. praestabilis*, and *E. rubrigularis*. Among other characters, the new species is distinguished from other *Enyalioides* by the combination of an orange blotch on the antehumeral region (in adult males), 30 or fewer longitudinal rows of dorsals in a transverse line between dorsolateral crests at midbody, ventral scales strongly keeled, and caudal scales heterogeneous in size on each autotomic segment. The new species is most similar morphologically to *E. cofanorum* and *E. microlepis*.

Key words: *Enyalioides*, Hopllocercinae, new species, Peru, wood lizard, Yanachaga Chemillen

Resumen

Describimos una nueva especie de *Enyalioides* proveniente de los bosques premontanos del centro de Perú. Esta representa la séptima especie de *Enyalioides* conocida al este de los Andes de Sudamérica; las otras seis especies son *E. cofanorum*, *E. laticeps*, *E. microlepis*, *E. palpebralis*, *E. praestabilis* y *E. rubrigularis*. La nueva especie se distingue de las demás especies de *Enyalioides* por la combinación de los siguientes caracteres: una mancha naranja en la región antero-humeral (en machos adultos), 30 o menos filas longitudinales de escamas dorsales (contadas en línea transversal entre las crestas dorsolaterales a la mitad del cuerpo), escamas ventrales fuertemente quilladas y escamas caudales de tamaño heterogéneo en cada segmento autonómico. Morfológicamente la nueva especie es similar a *E. cofanorum* y *E. microlepis*.

Palabras clave: *Enyalioides*, Hopllocercinae, lagartija de palo, nueva especie, Perú, Yanachaga Chemillen

Introduction

The Neotropical iguanian lizard clade Hopllocercinae includes 13 species assigned to three taxa ranked as genera: *Enyalioides*, *Hopllocercus*, and *Morunasaurus* (Torres-Carvajal *et al.* 2011). Of these, *Enyalioides* (wood lizards) is the most diverse, with nine species known from low elevations (up to 2000 m) on both sides of the Andes from Panama to southwestern Brazil (Torres-Carvajal *et al.* 2011). Most of the currently recognized species (8) of *Enyalioides* occur in Ecuador, followed by Peru with 6, Colombia 5, Brazil 2, Panama 1, and Bolivia 1 (Torres-Carvajal *et al.* 2008; Venegas *et al.* 2010; Torres-Carvajal *et al.* 2011). However, the diversity of *Enyalioides* probably remains underestimated due to a lack of collections from certain areas, and/or lack of taxonomic work. Wiens and Etheridge (2003) reported on two possible new species from Bolivia and Peru, and two of the nine known species of *Enyalioides* (*E. touzeti* and *E. rubrigularis*) were only recently described (Torres-Carvajal *et al.* 2008, 2009). Herein we describe a new species of *Enyalioides* that was recently discovered on an expedition to the Yanachaga Chemillen National Park (YCNP) on the Amazonian slopes of the Andes in central Peru. This discovery increases the number of species known from Peru to seven, and highlights the importance of making collections in protected natural areas in Peru.