



## An endemic new species of *Ameiva* (Squamata: Teiidae) from an isolated dry forest in southern Peru

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### Abstract

We describe a new species of *Ameiva* from an interandean dry forest in central-southern Peru. *Ameiva reticulata* sp. nov. represents the fifth species in the genus known to occur in Peru. The new species is similar to the species of the *A. ameiva* complex such as *A. ameiva*, *A. atrigularis*, *A. pantherina*, and *A. praesignis*, and is distinguished from these by a smaller size, a lower count of dorsal scales along the middorsal line and scales across the midbody, and by the gular coloration.

**Key words:** *Ameiva*, dry forest, endemic, new species, Peru, Teiidae

### Resumen

Describimos una nueva especie de *Ameiva* proveniente de un bosque seco interandino del sur de Perú. *Ameiva reticulata* sp. nov. representa la quinta especie de este género conocida para Perú. Esta nueva especie es similar a las especies del complejo *A. ameiva* tales como *A. ameiva*, *A. atrigularis*, *A. pantherina* y *A. praesignis*, siendo posible distinguirla de estas, básicamente por ser de menor tamaño, por tener menos escamas dorsales a lo largo del medio del cuerpo y alrededor del medio del cuerpo en una fila transversal, así como por la coloración de la garganta.

**Palabras clave:** *Ameiva*, bosque seco, endémica, nueva especie, Perú, Teiidae

### Introduction

A detailed taxonomic review has resulted in the discovery of several unreported morphological characters, which when combined with an analysis of molecular data, have revealed novel phylogenetic relationships in the Teiidae lizards (Harvey *et al.* 2012). As a result, several changes have been proposed, including the split of the genus *Ameiva* Meyer, 1795 into multiple taxa (*Ameiva*, *Aurivela* Harvey, Ugueto & Gutberlet, 2012, *Holcosus* Cope, 1862, and *Medopheos* Harvey, Ugueto & Gutberlet, 2012). Harvey *et al.* (2012) consider 28 species of whiptail lizards to belong to the genus *Ameiva*, including two Caribbean species that are now considered to be extinct. Notwithstanding, Giugliano *et al.* (2013), considered the taxonomic changes by Harvey *et al.* (2012) premature to say the last. They argued that the low support for the clades and the paraphilia of *Ameiva* needs to be resolved with further studies that consider a denser taxonomic sampling and using multiple loci for clarify the evolutionary relationships among teiid lizards. Recently Koch *et al.* (2013) described two new species of *Ameiva* from Peru, which are endemic to the dry forest of the valley of the Marañón River. This discovery augments the number of Peruvian species in the genus to four: *A. aggerescusans* Koch, Venegas, Rödder, Flecks & Böhme, 2013; *A. ameiva* Linnaeus, 1758; *A. concolor* Ruthven, 1924; and *A. nodam* Koch, Venegas, Rödder, Flecks & Böhme, 2013.

The region of Huancavelica is located in the central-southern Andes of Peru, with the major parts of the region at elevations between 1800 m and 3500 m. This steep area contains both versants of the Andes and a complex



**FIGURE 7.** General landscape of the habitat of *Ameiva reticulata* sp. nov. at Valle Seco del Mantaro on November 2011. Photograph by C.Z. Landauro.

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