

Ecuadorian distribution of snakes of the genera *Oxybelis* WAGLER, 1830 and *Xenoxybelis* MACHADO, 1993

Three species of the genus *Oxybelis* – *O. aeneus* (WAGLER, 1824), *O. brevirostris* (COPE, 1861), *O. fulgidus* (DAUDIN, 1803) – and one of the genus *Xenoxybelis* – *X. argenteus* (DAUDIN, 1803) – occur in Ecuador. All share a common body form and habits, and were classified until recently under the same genus (*Oxybelis*), but MACHADO (1993) separated *argenteus* and *boulengeri* (PROCTER, 1923) and placed them into *Xenoxybelis* based on hemipenial differences. The objective of this note is to present new records corresponding to first provincial reports and distributional extensions on the known range of the *Oxybelis* and *Xenoxybelis* species in Ecuador.

*Oxybelis aeneus* inhabits southern USA and Mexico, through Central America south to northwestern Peru on the Pacific versant, and south to Brazil and Bolivia on the Atlantic versant (KEISER 1974, 1982, 1991; LEHR et al. 2002; SAVAGE 2002; UETZ 1995-2006). In Ecuador it has been reported from the provinces of Manabí, Guayas, Imbabura, and Azuay, with no records of *O. aeneus* from the Amazonian region of Ecuador (PÉREZ-SANTOS & MORENO 1991) even though this species is known in Amazonian Peru (e.g., DIXON & SOINI 1986).

A specimen of *O. aeneus* (deposited at Fundación Herpetológica G. ORCÉS, Quito, FHGO 691) collected at Jatun Sacha (01°04' 01"S, 77°37'57"W, 460 m a.s.l.), Province of Napo, Ecuador, on 01 May 1995 by Alfredo LÓPEZ, is the first specimen reported from Amazonian Ecuador, and represents the westernmost record in the Amazonian distribution of the species, extending the range ca. 610 km NW from the closest known localities (Iquitos region, Peru – DIXON & SOINI 1986). Another *O. aeneus* (FHGO 3243), collected at Quinara (04°18'56"S, 79°13' 54"W, 1,600 m a.s.l.), Province of Loja, on 26 March 1991 by Jean-Marc TOUZET, is among the highest altitudinal records for the species (previously reported up to 1,300 m), and the southernmost record in Ecuador, filling the gap between Peruvian and Ecuadorian localities (KEISER 1974, 1982; SAV-

AGE 2002; PÉREZ-SANTOS & MORENO 1991; LEHR et al. 2002).

*Oxybelis brevirostris* inhabits eastern Honduras to central Panama and the Pacific slope of eastern Panama, western Colombia and western Ecuador (SAVAGE 2002; UETZ 1995-2006). It has been reported in Ecuador from the provinces of Esmeraldas, Los Ríos, Guayas and Pichincha (PÉREZ-SANTOS & MORENO 1991). Two specimens of *O. brevirostris* are first provincial reports: a specimen (FHGO 072) collected at Río Patul, 2 km E Manta Real (79°30'W, 02° 33'S, 250 m a.s.l.), province of Azuay, on 24 November 1990 by Juan Carlos MATHEUS; and a specimen (FHGO 791) collected at Buenaventura – Platanillo road (79°36'W, 03° 39'S, 800 m a.s.l.), Provincia de El Oro, on 28 May 1993 by Hernán VARGAS. The record from El Oro is the southernmost in the known range area of the species.

*Oxybelis fulgidus* occurs from Mexico through Central America south to Amazonian Bolivia and Brazil (UETZ 1995-2006). It was reported in Ecuador only from the province of Pastaza by PÉREZ-SANTOS & MORENO (1991). Two specimens of *O. fulgidus* apparently represent first provincial records: a specimen (FHGO 218) collected at Makuma (77°42'98"W, 02°08'75"S, 600 m a.s.l.), province of Morona-Santiago, on 26 January 1998 by Dwain HOLMES and Pablo YANGKUR; and a specimen (FHGO 3496) collected at the Arajuno river, near Jatun Sacha (450 m a.s.l.), province of Napo, on 14 October 1997 by Taryn GHIA.

*Xenoxybelis argenteus* inhabits the Amazonian lowlands of northern South America from Venezuela to Bolivia and Brazil (UETZ 1995-2006). It has been reported in Ecuador from the province of Napo, Orellana, Pastaza and Zamora-Chinchi (PÉREZ-SANTOS & MORENO 1991; CISNEROS-HEREDIA 2003, 2006). A specimen of *X. argenteus* (FHGO 745) collected at Centro Makuma (02°08'S, 77°42'W, 600 m a.s.l.), province of Morona-Santiago, Ecuador, on 29 May 1993 by Clever AGUINDA corresponds to the first provincial record locality, filling the gap between Pastaza and Zamora-Chinchi localities. Together with another specimen (FHGO 910) from Talag (77° 54'24"W, 01°03'35"S, 520 m a.s.l.), province of Napo, Ecuador, on 01 July 1994 by

Pablo BOSQUES; these localities are the westernmost localities in the distribution of the species. *Xenoxybelis argenteus* is a rather common species in Amazonian lowlands (e.g., Tiputini Biodiversity Station, CISNEROS-HEREDIA unpublished; DIXON & SOINI 1986) but seems to become scarce near the foothills of the Andes.

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KEY WORDS: Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae: *Oxybelis aeneus*, *Oxybelis brevirostris*, *Oxybelis fulgidus*, *Xenoxybelis argenteus*, geographic range, distribution, Ecuador.

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