

## AMPHIBIA: CAUDATA: PLETHODONTIDAE

## PSEUDOEURYCEA UNGUIDENTIS

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Lynch, J.F. and D.B. Wake. 1999. *Pseudoeurycea unguidentis*.

*Pseudoeurycea unguidentis* (Taylor)

*Bolitoglossa unguidentis* Taylor 1941:57. Type locality, "Cerro San Felipe, about 15 kilometers north of Oaxaca, Oaxaca [México], at an elevation of about 2200 meters in mixed forest containing much pine." Holotype, Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) 100011 (formerly EHT-HMS 17102), adult male, collected by E.H. Taylor, 20 August 1938 (not examined by authors).

*Pseudoeurycea unguidentis*: Taylor 1944:209.

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized.

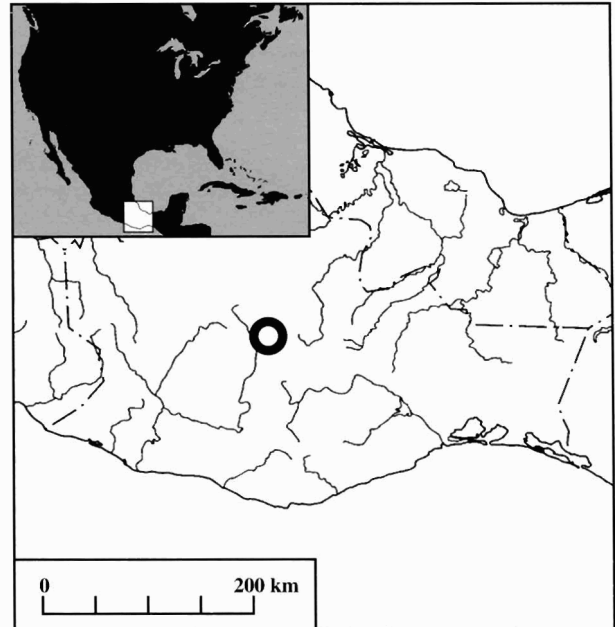
• **DEFINITION.** Compared with other species in the genus, *Pseudoeurycea unguidentis* is moderately large (maximum SVL = 62 mm) and has a very long tail (tail length exceeds SVL in adults), long limbs (combined limb length/SVL > 1.0), large hands and feet, and a narrow head. Males tend to exceed females in SVL, but have relatively narrower heads and longer limbs, and possess bifid premaxillary teeth. Compared with adults, juveniles have shorter relative tail length and broader heads.

The background color of the dorsum is medium gray, grading to pale gray laterally. The middorsal region tends to be mottled brown and gray, but lacks a distinctly delineated mid-dorsal stripe. The sides usually are marked with irregular patches of white iridophores. The belly and undersurface of the tail are a uniform pale gray; the chin is white and flecked with tiny melanophores.

• **DIAGNOSIS.** The only species with which *Pseudoeurycea unguidentis* is likely to be confused is the sympatric *P. smithi*. Compared with the latter, *P. unguidentis* is smaller and more gracile, has a relatively longer tail, longer limbs, and a narrower head. The two species are profoundly differentiated genetically (Lynch et al. 1977).

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Taylor (1941) described external morphology, dentition, and color pattern. Lynch et al. (1977) presented morphological and electrophoretic data for *P. unguidentis* and *P. smithi*.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Taylor (1941) illustrated the head, premaxillary teeth, and feet of the holotype. Lynch et al. (1977) included a photograph of a living specimen.

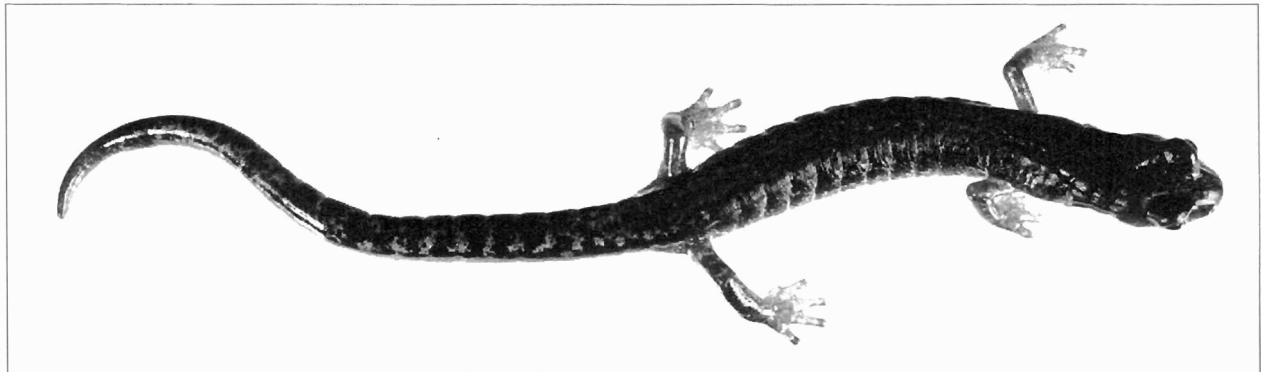


**MAP.** Distribution of *Pseudoeurycea unguidentis*. The circle represents the type locality and other known localities in close proximity to the type locality.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** The only sites where *Pseudoeurycea unguidentis* is known to occur are at high elevations (2,900–3,050 m) in mixed oak-conifer forest on Cerro San Felipe and adjacent Cerro San Luis, about 15 km north of the city of Oaxaca. Taylor (1941) reported the elevation of the type locality near the summit of Cerro San Felipe as 2,200 m, but we believe this to be in error, as the summit of this mountain is over 3,000 m. Moreover, *P. smithi*, which Taylor collected in sympatry with the type series of *P. unguidentis*, is not known to occur below about 2,800 m.

Although some individuals of *Pseudoeurycea unguidentis* have been collected on the ground under logs and rocks, the species is most often encountered in crevices beneath the loose bark of downed logs. The sympatric *P. smithi* is larger and more robust than the relatively gracile *P. unguidentis*, and is usually terrestrial. Other salamander species that co-occur with *P. unguidentis* include *P. bellii*, *Thorius narisovalis*, and an unnamed species of the *Chiropterotriton chiropterus* group (Darda 1994).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.



**FIGURE.** Adult male *Pseudoeurycea unguidentis* (from Lynch et al. 1977).

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Taylor (1941) and Lynch et al. (1977) presented morphological data. Lynch et al. (1977) and Maxson and Wake (1981) provided biochemical comparisons with *P. smithi* and other *Pseudoeurycea*. Wake et al. (1992) illustrated the elevational distribution and general habitat associations of *P. unguidentis* and other salamanders of northern Oaxaca.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific name *unguidentis* combines the Latin words for “claw” and “tooth,” and refers to the hooked premaxillary teeth of adult males.

• **COMMENT.** Data presented by Lynch et al. (1977) unequivocally invalidated Bogert’s (1967) decision to synonymize *P. unguidentis* and *P. smithii*.

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