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ON THE CONSPECIFICITY OF THE IG-
UANID LIZARDS *LIOLAEMUS CHACOEN-
SIS* AND *LIOLAEMUS EMMAE*.—Donoso-
Barros (1970) described *Liolaemus emmae* on the

basis of a single female from Totoralejos, on the saline flats of northern Cordoba Province, Argentina. The species was compared with *Liolaemus chacoensis* Shreve (1948) described from Fortin Guachalla, Paraguayan Chaco, from which it was presumed to differ by dorsal scales larger than ventrals, anterior border of ear opening denticulated, and dorsal pattern formed by a vertebral row of V-shaped spots. Subsequently (Cei, 1973) two additional specimens [from Buta Ranquil, Neuquen, Argentina [IBA-UNC.(Instituto Biología Animal, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina)716] and Nacuñan, Mendoza, Argentina (IBA-UNC.808)] were referred to this species. However, these have now been determined to be anomalous individuals of *Liolaemus darwini* (Bell).

A comparison of the holotype of *L. emmae* (No. 8835, Zoological Museum, Instituto Central de Biología, Concepción, Chile) with 119 specimens of *L. chacoensis* Shreve from the Argentine Chacoan region [IML (Instituto Miguel Lillo, Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Argentina)-493, Monte Quemado, Santiago del Estero Province; IML-296, Huyamampa, Santiago del Estero Province; IML-477, San Antonio, Santiago del Estero Province; IML-729, Bandera Bajada, Santiago del Estero Province; IBA-UNC.-321, southern Santiago del Estero Province; IBA-UNC.-567, 10 km SE Chamental, La Rioja Province; IBA-UNC.-1226, Portezuelo, La Rioja Province; IBA-UNC.-1295, Salinas La Antigua, Chamental, La Rioja Province; IBA-UNC.-1228, Road San Ramon-Patquia, La Rioja Province; IBA-UNC.-1102, Agua Cercada, Valle Fertil, San Juan Province; IBA-UNC.-1101, Rio Las Tumanas, Valle Fertil, San Juan Province; IBA-UNC.-1077, Alto Pencoso, San Luis Province; IBA-UNC.-1313, Quines, San Luis Province; IBA-UNC.-196, Dique La Florida, San Luis Province] indicated the conspecificity of the two forms.

The following comparison using the diagnostic characters used by Donoso-Barros to describe *L. emmae* does not support significant specific differences. Body slender, head small elongate, tip of snout blunt in both forms. Upper head scales rugose, rostral wider than high, three azygous frontal scutes in the holotype of *L. emmae*, one, two or three frontal azygous

scutes in *L. chacoensis*; parietals larger 2× than interparietal in *L. emmae*, larger than interparietal in *L. chacoensis*; five enlarged supraoculars in *L. emmae*, four to six enlarged supraoculars in *L. chacoensis*; a single series of scales between supralabials and subocular in both forms. Equal number of supralabials and infralabials; temporal scales equally keeled; antehumeral and longitudinal folds very similar. Dorsal scales large or moderate, imbricate, strongly keeled, the keels forming continuous lines in both forms. Scales on sides of neck small and smooth in the holotype of *L. emmae* and *L. chacoensis*. Anterior border of ear opening slightly denticulated in both forms. Ventral scales about the same size. No differences between dorsals and ventrals were found. Scales around the middle of the body 44–53 in *L. chacoensis*, 52 in the holotype of *L. emmae*; 21 lamellae under fourth toe in the holotype of *L. emmae*, 21–24 lamellae under fourth toe in *L. chacoensis*. The adpressed hind limbs reach the axilla in both forms. No significant differences in coloration. A dorsal pattern formed by a vertebral row of V-shaped spots, such as in the holotype of *L. emmae*, is also present in *L. chacoensis*. It may be concluded that the characters used by Donoso-Barros to distinguish the unique type specimen of *Liolaemus emmae* do not disagree with the individual variation of *Liolaemus chacoensis* living in the same arid Chacoan environments, from 23° to 33°S latitude.

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