

Novedad zoogeográfica

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First record of *Liolaemus azarai* and *Hemidactylus mabouia* for Ñeembucú Department, ParaguayV́ctor Hugo Zaracho¹, Maŕa Esther Tedesco¹, Martha Motte², Alberto Yanosky³¹ Laboratorio de Herpetología. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura. Universidad Nacional del Nordeste. Av. Libertad 5470 (3400) Corrientes, Argentina.² Museo Nacional de Historia Natural del Paraguay. Km 10 ½ Ruta Mariscal Estigarribia. San Lorenzo, Departamento Central, Paraguay.³ Asociación Guyra Paraguay, Paraguay.*Liolaemus azarai* Ávila, 2003

Locality— Paraguay, Ñeembucú Department, Laureles District, San Sebastián (27°11'33"S; 57°48'11"W. WGS84. 70 m above sea level.). Date: 23/01/2016. Col: M. E. Tedesco, V. H. Zaracho and M. Motte. Voucher: MNHNP 12086 (juvenile, snout-vent length: 32.14 mm).

Hemidactylus mabouia (Moreau de Jonnés, 1818)

Locality—Paraguay, Ñeembucú Department, Cerrito (27°20'38"S; 57°38'24"W. WGS84. 65 m above sea level). Date: 22/01/2016. Col: M. E. Tedesco, V. H. Zaracho and M. Motte. Voucher: MNHNP 12087 (adult, snout-vent length: 55.53 mm).

Comments— The distribution of reptiles from Paraguay was recently revised and updated by Cacciali *et al.* (2016). Here we report the presence of two lizard species not recorded previously for Ñeembucú Department.

In Paraguay, *Liolaemus azarai* is known mainly for its type locality, Isla Yacyretá (Itapúa Department), and other population from Yabebyry (Misiones Department) (Fig. 1). Land area in Isla Yacyretá has been greatly reduced due to the permanent flooding caused by the construction and operation of the Yacyretá hydroelectric dam. A *L. azarai* adult male was observed active in January 21, 2016 (11:13 h), and two days later, several juvenile were observed (one of them was collected) (Fig. 2A-B). The individuals were found in a sand dune dominated by *Elyonurus muticus* grasses and “yatay” palms (*Butia* sp.). This habitat is similar to that in Argentina where the species is also present (Álvarez *et al.*, 2003; Ávila, 2003; Zaracho *et al.*, 2014). In Paraguay, its conservation status is

Vulnerable (Motte *et al.*, 2009). The new locality extends its distribution ca. 110 Km to the west of the two localities where it was previously recorded in Paraguay: Isla Yacyretá (Itapúa Department) and Yabebyry (Misiones Department).

Hemidactylus mabouia has been previously reported in urban areas of Alto Paraná, Central, Concepción, San Pedro, and Itapúa Departments (Cacciali *et al.*, 2016) (Fig. 1). It is an invasive species from Africa that currently occurs in México, Cuba and other islands, Venezuela, Guyana, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay (Cacciali

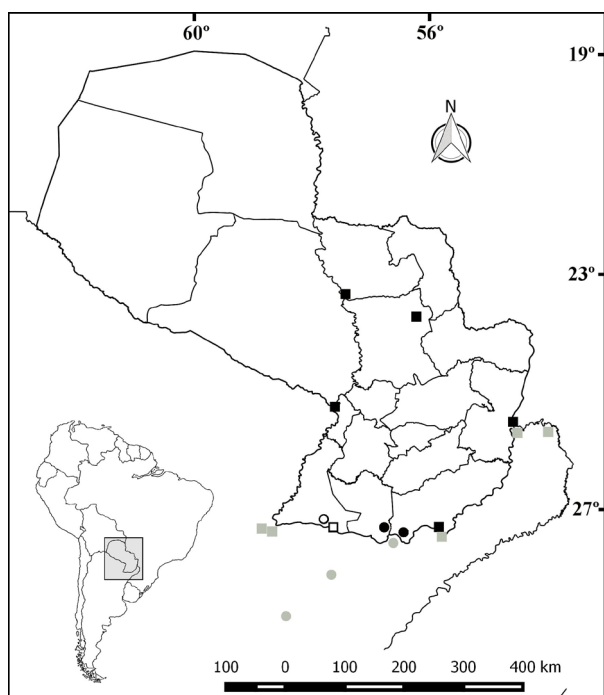


Figure 1. Distribution of *Liolaemus azarai* (circles) and *Hemidactylus mabouia* (squares) in Paraguay (open symbols: new records). Closest Argentinean records are included as gray symbols (Álvarez *et al.*, 2003; Zaracho *et al.*, 2014; Baldo *et al.*, 2008).

and Motte, 2009). Its presence in Paraguay likely originated, as in other places, by passive transportation through floating vegetation or ships (Avila-Pires, 1995; Kluge, 1969; Cacciali and Motte, 2009). The collected specimen (Fig. 2) was found climbing a wall in a house, about at 17:00 h. This new record extends the distribution of *H. mabouia* in Paraguay ca. 200 km to the south of Asunción, and 200 km to the west of Encarnación, the nearest localities with confirmed presence of the species.

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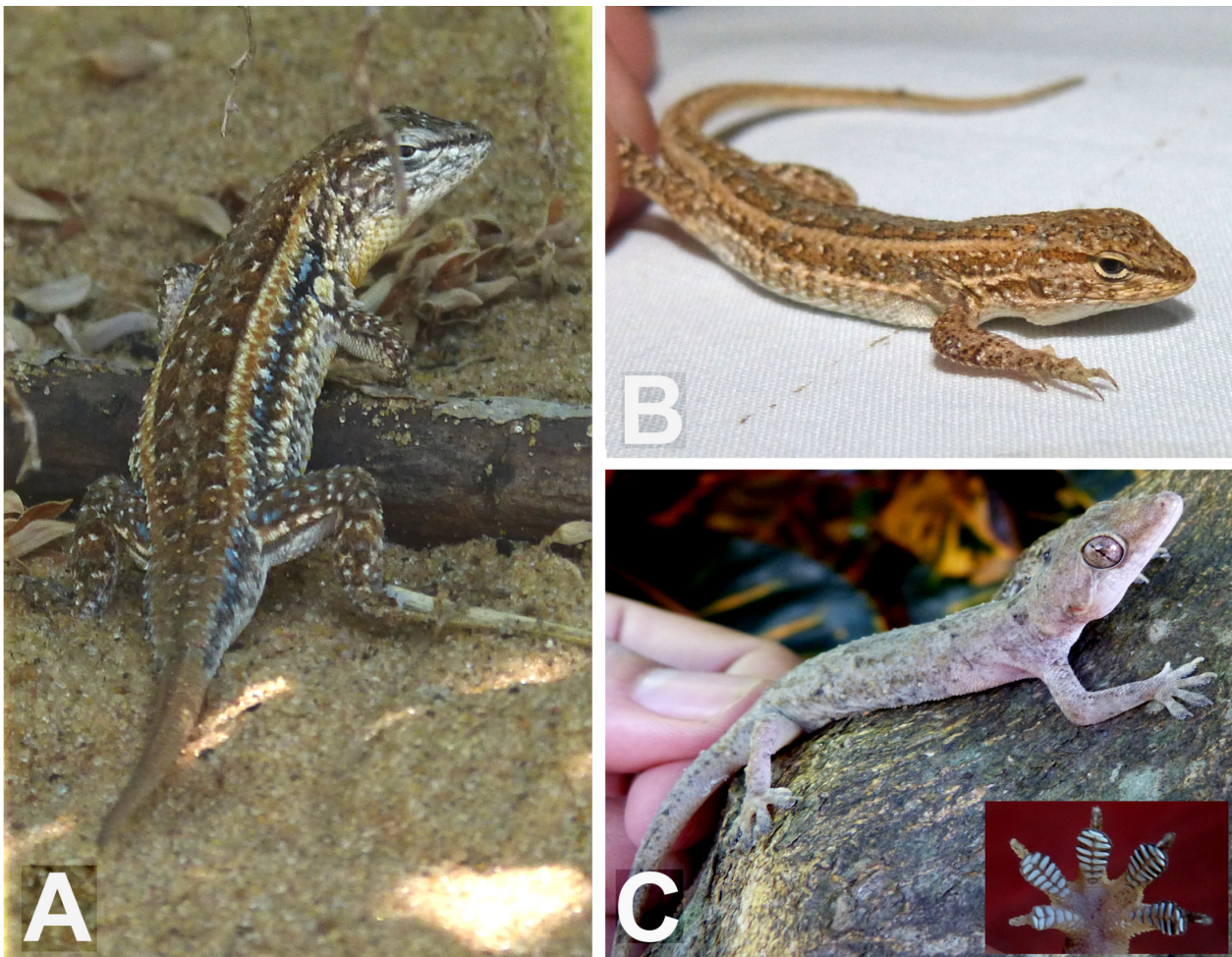


Figure 2. Voucher individuals of two species of lizard from Ñeembucú Department, Paraguay. A-B, *Liolaemus azarai* (adult and juvenile, respectively); C, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Inset: ventral view of the left hand).

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