



First Records of Three Species of Squamata in the Sierra Negra, Puebla, Mexico

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The Sierra Negra, located in southeastern Puebla, borders the Sierra de Zongolica (Veracruz) to the north, the Sierra Mazateca (Oaxaca) to the south, the Tehuacán Valley to the west (Fagetti and Mateos-Segovia 2022), and the Río Tonto, which separates Puebla from Veracruz, to the east. This region is characterized by a complex topography that is reflected in the presence of a variety of ecosystems, including evergreen tropical rainforest (García-Vázquez et al. 2010), montane cloud forest (Canseco-Márquez and Smith 2004), and pine-oak forest (Canseco-Márquez et al. 2018). However, few published records document the herpetofauna of this region, largely due to limited sampling (Canseco-Márquez and Smith 2004; Luría-Manzano et al. 2021). We herein present the first records of three species of squamates, one lizard and two snakes, in this region.

Huasteca Lesser Galliwasp, *Siderolamprus enneagrammus* Cope 1861 — México: Puebla, Municipality of Coyomeapan, Xocotla (18.31951, -96.9765; elev. 1,752 m asl). At 1100 h on 3 August 2024, we found an individual (Fig. 1) basking on a board on the side of the road on a sunny day; surrounding vegetation corresponded to a pine-oak for-

est. This is the first record for the municipality and is 22.37 km NW of the nearest previously known locality in the Ejido Clemencia, Municipality of Santa María Chilchotla, Oaxaca (Villegas-García et al. 2015). Diagnostic characteristics were subocular and postocular scales in a single continuous series, suture between the first and second supralabials beneath the center of the naris, dark flanks with pale markings, and supra-cephalic scales uniformly colored (Campbell and Camarillo R. 1994). A photographic voucher has been deposited in the digital collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM PC 3150).

Western Dusky Rattlesnake, *Crotalus triseriatus* (Wagler 1830) — México: Puebla, Municipality of Coyomeapan, Cerro Tsitsintepetl (18.280, -96.951; elev. 2,533 m asl). At 1415 h on 3 May 2024, we encountered an individual (Fig. 2) basking on the road on a sunny day; the vegetation at the site was pine-oak forest. This is the first record for the municipality, 45.79 km SE of the nearest previ-



Figure 1. Huasteca Lesser Galliwasp (*Siderolamprus enneagrammus*) recorded for the first time in the Sierra Negra, Puebla, Mexico. Photograph by Rafael Peralta-Hernández.



Figure 2. Western Dusky Rattlesnake (*Crotalus triseriatus*) recorded for the first time in the Sierra Negra, Puebla, Mexico. Photograph by Rafael Peralta-Hernández.

ously known locality in Mazituaya, Municipality of Xoxocotla, Veracruz (Castillo-Juárez et al. 2021), is the southernmost record for the species (Campbell and Lamar 2004), and lies outside the range illustrated in the IUCN Red List (Canseco-Márquez and Mendoza-Quijano 2007). Diagnostic characteristics were enlarged scales on the dorsal and anterior parts of the head, elongated spots in the parietal region, and a black band that originates in the subocular region and extends posteriorly to the end of the supralabial scales (Ramírez-Bautista et al. 2009). A photographic voucher has been deposited in the digital collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM PC 3102).

Sumichrast's Gartersnake, *Thamnophis sumichrasti* (Cope 1866) — Mexico: Puebla, Municipality of Coyomeapan, Ahuatla (18.30596, -96.96967; elev. 2,104 m asl). At 1315 h on 7 July 2024, we encountered an individual (Fig. 3) crawling on the side of the road on a sunny day; the vegetation at the site corresponded to degraded pine-oak forest. This is the first record for the municipality and is located between the two closest previously known localities, 54.3 linear km SE of Petlalcala, Municipality of San Andrés Tenejapa, Veracruz (Sánchez-Cordero and CONABIO C 2025), and 15.2 linear km N of Sierra Mazateca, Puerto Soledad-Teotitlán Highway (km 25); Oaxaca (UTA-R 52636) is the second-most southern record for the species, surpassed only by UTA-R 52636 (Grünwald et al. 2024); and lies outside the range illustrated in the IUCN Red List (Canseco-Márquez and Flores Villela 2007). Diagnostic char-

acteristics were olive-brown dorsal coloration without longitudinal bands, eight supralabial scales, a black band from the mouth crossing the posterior margin of the seventh supralabial scale extending toward the eye, and black spots on the nape (one on each parietal scale (Cope 1867). A photographic voucher has been deposited in the digital collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM PC 3103).

Despite the paucity of records, this region is known to support an extensive herpetofauna, including a frog endemic to the region (Canseco-Márquez and Smith 2004), a lizard shared only with central Veracruz (García-Vázquez et al. 2010), and a host of other species not found elsewhere in Puebla: Greater Bromeliad Treefrog (*Bromeliophyla dendroscarta*), Variegated Treefrog (*Megastomatohyla mixomaculata*) (Canseco-Márquez et al. 2018); Jaguar Salamander (*Pseudoeurycea jaguar*) (Peralta-Hernández et al. 2024), and Cerro Petlalcala Montane Pitviper (*Cerrophidion petlalcalensis*) (Peralta-Hernández 2024). This region also appears to be the southern limit of the distribution of several species, such as *Aquiloerycea cafetalera* (Luría-Manzano et al. 2021), *Crotalus triseriatus* (this work), *Pseudoeurycea jaguar* (Peralta-Hernández et al. 2024), and *Thamnophis conanti* (Luría-Manzano et al. 2021). Finally, given that this region is a conservation priority (Arriaga et al. 2000), we strongly recommend that additional studies of its biota be implemented.

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Figure 3. Sumichrast's Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sumichrasti*) recorded for the first time in the Sierra Negra, Puebla, Mexico. Photograph by Rafael Peralta-Hernández.

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