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New Records and Natural History Notes for Lizards from Northwestern Argentina

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Field work in northwestern Argentina during the astral summer of 1995 resulted in significant new records for five species of Liolaemus—three of them recently described members of the darwinii complex—and for one species of Pristidactylus. The identities of all specimens were verified by Fernando Lobo. Voucher specimens have been deposited at San Diego State University (SDSU) or the Fundación Miguel Lillo (FML). Latitude, longitude, and elevation were determined with a Trimble™ global-positioning device (Trimble Navigation Systems, Sunnyvale, California, USA).

Tropiduridae

Liolaemus cayamae (NCN). LA RIOJA PROVINCE: Dpt. Gral. Lavalle, 42 km SW of Villa Unión on Ruta Nac. 40 (29°30’59”S, 68°30’51”W, 1090 m). 19 January 1995. SDSU 3435. An adult female was found basking on a rock along the road. The previous westernmost records are from 67°41’51”W in southern Juan Provincia, and 67°38’0”W in southwestern Catamarca Province. This record constitutes a range extension of ca. 140 km west for the species and provides support for Cei’s (1993) contention that this species is distributed throughout most of the non-Andean regions of this province. The substratum was one of loose sand with smooth stones and small boulders, but lacking dunes or extensive areas of open sand.

Liolaemus kaslovensis (NCN). LA RIOJA PROVINCE: Dpt. Gral. La Madrid, 10.8 km N of Villa Castelli on Ruta Prov. 26 (28°55’50”S, 68°11’11”W, 1410 m). 18 January 1995. SDSU 3597. This is the second record for this species from the valley of the Rio Vincchina, extends the known range ca. 50 km north of the previously reported westernmost record (Etheridge 1993). Of greater significance, however, is the discovery of Liolaemus olongasta to the north (see below).

Liolaemus laurenti (NCN). LA RIOJA PROVINCE: Dpt. Independencia, sand dunes 51 km W of Pampita on Ruta Prov.

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