

First record of *Ctenosaura alfredschmidti* KÖHLER, 1995 in Guatemala

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Abstract

Ctenosaura alfredschmidti KÖHLER, 1995 is reported for the first time in Guatemala. At the collecting site (Mirador-Río Azul National Park, Departamento de Petén), the habitat is seasonally flooded scrub forest with sparse shrubs. The iguana was on a tree and retreated into a hollow trunk.

Key words: Squamata: Iguanidae: *Ctenosaura alfredschmidti*; first record, Guatemala.

In 1995, KÖHLER described *Ctenosaura alfredschmidti* on the basis of a single adult male that was collected in the early 1960s. KÖHLER (1995) confirmed the existence of this species at the type locality (70 km E Escarcega on road to Chetumal, Campeche, Mexico) and provided colour photos of the animals in life and of its habitat near the type locality. During field work in the Calakmul region in southern Campeche, ROGELIO CEDEÑO V. and co-workers discovered two additional populations of *C. alfredschmidti* (CALDERON et al. 2003). Thus, this species was heretofore considered to be restricted to southern Campeche, Mexico (KÖHLER 2002, 2003). In the present paper, we present data on the first Guatemalan record of this species.

On 25 June 2003, at Mirador-Río Azul National Park, Departamento de Petén, Guatemala (UTM 16254266, 1965668), 100–400 m above sea level, an individual of *Ctenosaura alfredschmidti* (UVG 3784 [Universidad del Valle, Guatemala City, Guatemala]) was observed on small tree, about 2 m above the ground. The animal went into the hollow trunk of the tree where it blocked the entrance with its spiny tail, making it impossible to extract it manually. Therefore, the entire trunk was cut to remove the lizard from its hole.

The specimen is an adult male (Figs. 1 and 2) with a snout-vent length (SVL) of 130 mm and a tail length (TL) of 96 mm (ratio TL/SVL 0.74). Head length (HL) is 33 mm (HL/SVL 0.25), head width (HW) is 25 mm (HW/SVL 0.19), axilla-groin distance (AGD) is 63 mm (AGD/SVL 0.48), and shank length (SL) is 26 mm (SL/SVL 0.20). It has a single row separating the supraorbital semicircles at the narrowest point, 9 supralabials, 8 infralabials, 8 femoral pores (one side), and 24 lamellae under the fourth toe. The species identification was confirmed by comparing close-up photographs of the specimen with the holotype of *Ctenosaura alfredschmidti* (SMF 69019 [Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt a.M., Germany]) and with data provided by KÖHLER (1995). Diagnostic characters include the presence of a complete row of intercalary scales between all whorls of enlarged spinous caudal scales; the presence of a more or less continuous row of slightly enlarged median dorsal scales; and the presence of a distinct interparietal scale with a small parietal eye.

The habitat at the collecting site is seasonally flooded scrub forest with sparse shrubs and exposed soil (calcium carbonate silt). This habitat type is found as small isolated patches of approximately 20 ha each, surrounded by low thorn forest. The study site possibly represents the southernmost place for such scrub habitat in the Yucatán Peninsula. This is a range extension for *Ctenosaura alfredschmidti* ca. 50 km SSW from the nearest locality in Campeche, Mexico (CALDERON et al. 2003).



Fig. 1. Adult male of / adultes Männchen von *Ctenosaura alfredschmidtii* (UVG 3784) from / vom Mirador-Río Azul National Park, Departamento de Petén, Guatemala.



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of anterior portion of tail in / Dorsalansicht des vorderen Schwanzbereichs von *Ctenosaura alfredschmidtii* (UVG 3784).

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Resumen

Ctenosaura alfredschmidti está registrado por primera vez en Guatemala. En el sitio de colecta (Parque Nacional Mirador-Río Azul, Departamento de Petén), el hábitat consiste en bosque bajo estacionalmente inundado con arbustos dispersos. La lagartija se encontró en un árbol pequeño y se metió en un tronco hueco.

Erstnachweis von *Ctenosaura alfredschmidti* KÖHLER, 1995 in Guatemala

Ctenosaura alfredschmidti wird erstmals in Guatemala nachgewiesen, wodurch das bekannte Verbreitungsgebiet der Art um 50 km in SSW Richtung von der nächsten Lokalität in Campeche, Mexiko, erweitert wird. Am Fundort (Mirador-Río Azul National Park, Departamento de Petén) überwiegt saisonal überfluteter Buschwald mit lichter Vegetation. Der Leguan befand sich auf einem Baum und versteckte sich in einem hohlen Stamm. Bei dem Exemplar handelt es sich um ein erwachsenes Männchen mit einer Kopf-Rumpflänge (KRL) von 130 mm bei einer Schwanzlänge (SL) von 96 mm (Verhältnis SL/KRL 0.74). Es hat eine vollständige Reihe Schuppen zwischen den supraorbitalen Halbkreisen (an der engsten Stelle), 9 Supralabialia, 8 Sublabialia, 8 Femoralporen pro Seite und 24 Lamellae unter der vierten Zehe.

Schlagwörter: Squamata: Iguanidae: *Ctenosaura alfredschmidti*; Erstnachweis, Guatemala.

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