

NEW RECORD OF *MARISORA AQUILONARIA* (SQUAMATA: SCINCIDAE) IN ESTADO DE MÉXICO, MEXICONUEVO REGISTRO DE *MARISORA AQUILONARIA* (SQUAMATA: SCINCIDAE) EN EL ESTADO DE MÉXICO, MÉXICO

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The Southern Sierra Madre Skink (*Marisora aquilonaria*) is a lizard species endemic to Mexico. Its distribution covers the Pacific slope from the state of Nayarit to the southeastern Guerrero and the Balsas basin in the southeastern Estado de México, including southern Puebla and Morelos. The records and specimens of this species are scattered in the literature and in herpetological collections (Hedges & Conn, 2012; Macip-Ríos et al., 2012; McCranie et al., 2020). *Marisora aquilonaria* mainly inhabits tropical deciduous and thorny forests from 0 to 1,200 m a.s.l., although there are records of this species at higher elevations, where oak or pine forest predominates with patches of grassland, scrub and herbaceous (Lara-Resendiz et al., 2017).

On 29 July 2017, at 12:00 h, we collected a female specimen of *Marisora aquilonaria* (Fig. 1) in a pine-oak forest with induced grassland in El Tule, municipality of Tejupilco, Estado de México (19.01034° N, 100.105604° W, elev. 1,669 m a.s.l.). The total (snout-tail) length of the specimen was 40.7 mm, it has five supraciliary scales per side, 30 lamellae from the sum of the lamellae of the fourth toe of each leg, 51 lamellae resulting from the sum of the five toes of each leg and lacks the dark and light dorsolateral lines. These diagnostic characters differentiate *Marisora aquilonaria* from the other two species of *Marisora* distributed in Mexico (McCranie et al., 2020). The specimen was collected under a collection permit issued by the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales of the Mexican government (Faut-0246) and subsequently deposited in the herpetological collection of the Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Estudios Superiores Zaragoza, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (MZFZ 4,652).

There is one previous record of *Marisora aquilonaria* in the literature for the State of Mexico, at La Puerta de Santiago, municipality of Tonicato (18.75111° N, 99.62638° W, elev. 1,456 m a.s.l.; Macip-Ríos, 2012), it is approximately 58 km in a straight line from our record. On the other hand, in the iNaturalist platform we found three nearby records; the first near “El Peñon”, municipality of Temascaltepec (19.0390° N, 100.1206° W, elev. 1,726 m a.s.l.), the second on the Estanco-Cañadas road in the municipality of Luvianos (18.8834° N, 100.3248° W, elev. 1,969 m a.s.l.) and the third on the Jalmolonga road, in the municipality of Malinalco (18.9098° N, 99.4928° W, elev. 1,514 m a.s.l.) at a distance of approximately 3, 27 and 65 km respectively in a straight line from our record, in the State of Mexico (iNaturalistMX, 2024).

This is the first record for the municipality of Tejupilco and extends the known geographic range 3.5 km (as the crow flies) northwest of the nearest record reported for the state (Fig. 2). According to the study by McCranie et al. (2020), the most recent study covering aspects of taxonomy, morphology, and distribution of species in the genus *Marisora*, the State of Mexico is not included in the distribution of *Marisora aquilonaria*. However, this exclusion is based on the omission of the record of *Marisora aquilonaria*, formerly *Mabuya unimarginata*, reported by Macip-Ríos et al. (2012). Therefore, our finding represents an additional verified record for the State of Mexico.



Figura 1. *Marisora aquilonaria* (MZfZ 4652) colectada en la localidad El Tule, municipio de Tejupilco, Estado de México, México. Foto: Esaú Valdenegro Brito.

Figure 1. *Marisora aquilonaria* collected (MZfZ 4652) from El Tule, municipality of Tejupilco, Estado de México, Mexico. Photo: Esaú Valdenegro Brito.

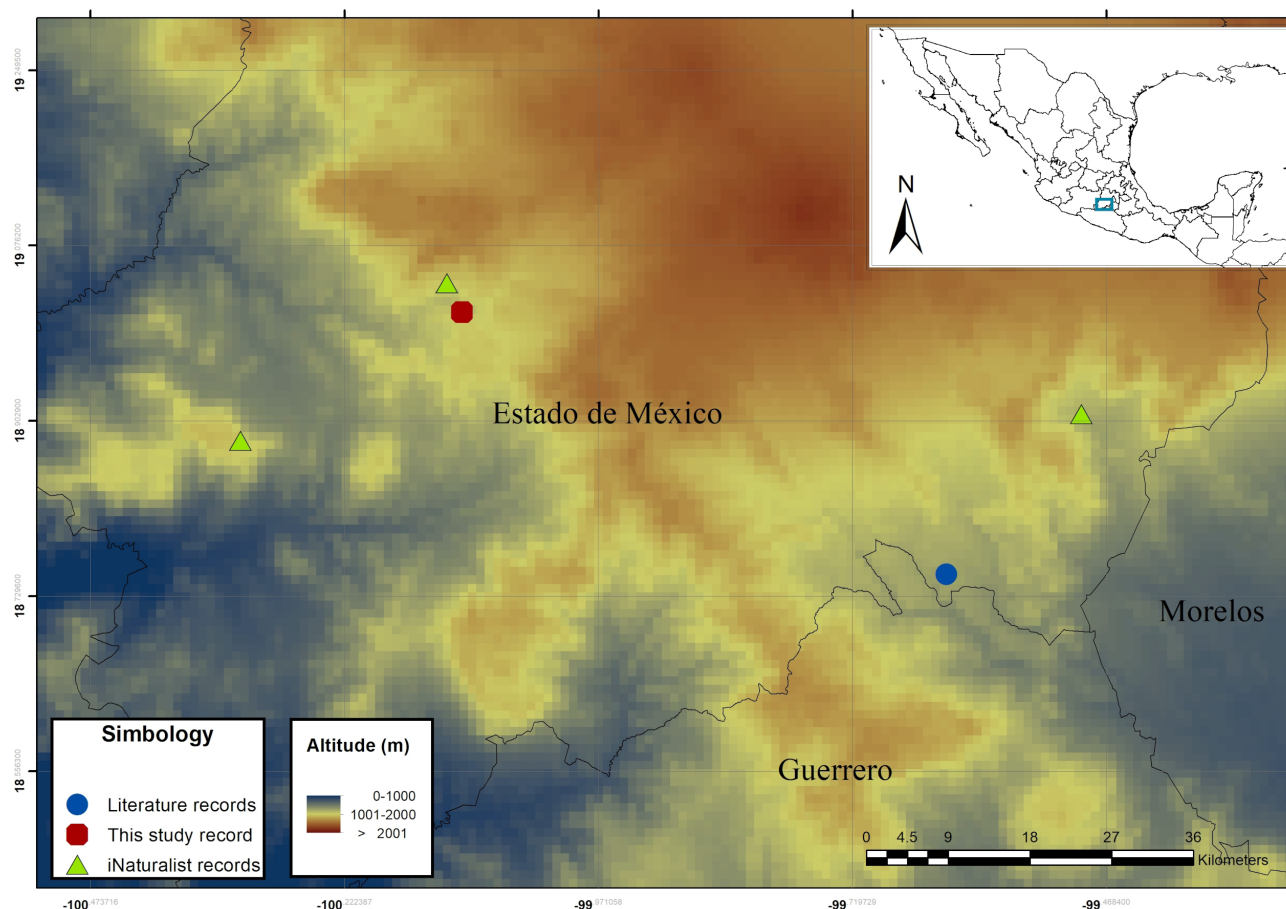


Figura 2. Distribución geográfica de *Marisora aquilonaria* en el Estado de México. Elaboración propia.

Figure 2. Geographic distribution of *Marisora aquilonaria* from Estado de México. Own elaboration.

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