NOTA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN
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FIRST RECORD OF THE ALTA VERAPAZ SALAMANDER *BOLITOGLOSSA DOFLEINI* (PLETHODONTIDAE) IN MEXICO

PRIMER REGISTRO DE LA SALAMANDRA DE ALTA VERAPAZ *BOLITOGLOSSA DOFLEINI* (PLETHODONTIDAE) EN MÉXICO

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Bolitoglossa is the most widely distributed genus of Caudata, with a geographic range extending from northern Mexico to Brazil and Bolivia (Wake & Lynch, 1976). In Mexico, there are 23 recorded species of Bolitoglossa (AmphibiaWeb, 2025). *Bolitoglossa dofleini* is one of the largest and most robust species of its genus. Currently, it is known to be distributed in western Belize, central and eastern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras, at altitudes of 50 to 1450 m a.s.l. (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, 2020). It occurs in tropical and subtropical lowland and premontane humid forests, however, it can easily adapt to areas with some disturbance such as cardamom and coffee plantations, although it requires canopy cover (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, 2020; Lee, 2000). Its distribution includes several protected areas such as Cusuco National Park, Cerro Azul National Park, Pico Bonito National Park and Refugio de Vida Silvestre Texiguat in Honduras, and Laguna Lachuá National Park and Reserva de Manantiales Montañas del Mico in Guatemala. However, there is a high probability of finding it between these sites (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, 2020). *Bolitoglossa dofleini* is a species with mainly terrestrial habits, in the case of females, and arboreal in males. It can be found among dead vegetation, soil, under logs, and on vegetation (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, 2020; Lee, 2000). We report the first record of *B. dofleini* in Mexico.

On July 14th, 2022 at 00:26 h, during a herpetological survey with Operation Wallacea aimed at assessing herpetofauna diversity and long-term changes in their populations in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and surrounding area, we encountered an adult *B. dofleini* (Fig. 1) perched on a plant stem approximately 70 cm above the ground. This observation took place at the bottom of a valley near the town of Dos Naciones, in the buffer zone of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Campeche, Mexico (17.96794° N, 89.36133° W, WGS 84; 184 m a.s.l.) (Fig. 2). We photographed the specimen in situ without any kind of physical manipulation.

Bolitoglossa dofleini can typically be distinguished from sympatric congeners in the Mexican Yucatán Peninsula by its large size and robust body, reaching a maximum snout-vent length of 120 mm, compared to 80 mm in *B. mexicana*, 55 mm in *B. yucatana*, and 33 mm in *B. rufescens*, all of which have slenderer bodies. Although small individuals of *B. dofleini* may overlap in length with large individuals of *B. mexicana*, *B. dofleini* can further be differentiated by having less distinct dorsal blotches, the frequent presence of conspicuous cream to tan blotches on the tail, and the presence of black spots at the top of the costal grooves in some individuals, including that of our observation (Lee, 2000).

This record of *B. dofleini* extends the known distribution approximately 104 km northwest of the closest record, in the Cayo district of Belize (GBIF, 2024). Furthermore, it increases to four the known number of salamander species found in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (Barão-Nóbrega et al., 2022) and the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico (González-Sánchez et al., 2017) and to 24 the number of *Bolitoglossa* species present in Mexico. Due to its Near Threatened status according to the IUCN, this record provides valuable data for the conservation and distribution of *B. dofleini*, confirming its presence in the buffer zone of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve.

Figura 1. Vista dorsal (A) y lateral (B) de un adulto de *Bolitoglossa dofleini* observado en Campeche, México. Fotos: Joseph L. Oakley

Figure 1. Dorsal (A) and lateral (B) view of an adult *Bolitoglossa dofleini* observed in Campeche Mexico. Photos: Joseph L. Oakley

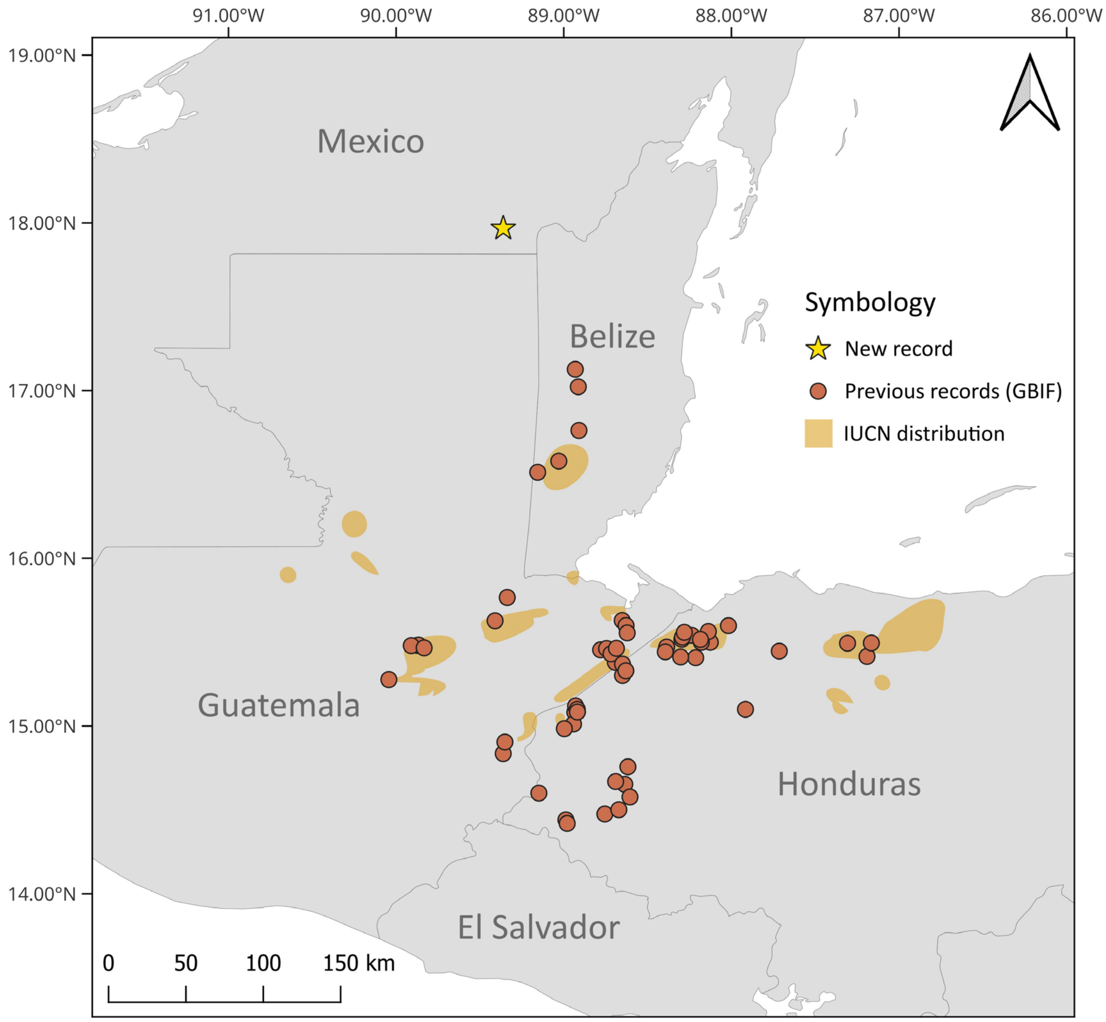

Figura 2. Distribución geográfica de *Bolitoglossa dofleini* incluyendo la nueva localidad, registros anteriores de GBIF (GBIF 2024) y su distribución según la UICN (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2020).

Figure 2. Geographic distribution of *Bolitoglossa dofleini* including the new locality, previous records from GBIF (GBIF 2024) and its distribution according to the IUCN (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2020).

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