

FIRST RECORD OF *EPICTIA BAKEWELLI* (LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE) IN THE STATE OF JALISCO, MEXICO

PRIMER REGISTRO DE *EPICTIA BAKEWELLI* (LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE) EN EL ESTADO DE JALISCO, MÉXICO

EDGAR E. HERNÁNDEZ-JUÁREZ^{1*}, DANIEL CRUZ-SÁENZ^{1,2}, ANDRÉS RODRÍGUEZ-LÓPEZ¹, EDUARDO D. ROLDÁN-OLVERA¹ & GERARDO RAMOS-LEÓN¹

¹Universidad de Guadalajara, Centro Universitario de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias. Km 15.5 Carretera Guadalajara-Nogales, Predio Las Agujas. C. P. 44101. A. P. 1-1919. Zapopan, JAL., México.

²Centro de Estudios en Zoología, Centro Universitario de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias, Universidad de Guadalajara, Zapopan, Jalisco, 1-1919, México

*Correspondence: edmanuel97@hotmail.com

Epictia bakewelli (Oliver, 1937) is a threadsnake of the family Leptotyphlopidae that inhabits coastal regions on the Pacific slopes from Colima, through Michoacán and Guerrero, to Oaxaca (Smith & Taylor, 1945). Smith and Taylor (1945), described Jalisco as part of the distribution, but no records existed in zoological collections or museums. Heimes (2016) and Wallach (2016) did not consider the state of Jalisco as part of the distribution of *E. bakewelli*. The individuals collected closest to Jalisco are from Paso del Río, Colima (UMMZ 80228-80229; & EHT-HMS 3370; Oliver, 1937). The threadsnake species previously recorded from Jalisco include *Rena humilis* and *Rena bressoni* of the family Leptotyphlopidae. The genus *Epictia* has not been previously registered for the state (Cruz-Sáenz et al., 2017).

Here we present the first record of *E. bakewelli* for the state of Jalisco, Mexico. On November 8th, 2019, we found an individual of *E. bakewelli* (Fig. 1) while walking during a field trip to “El Llano en Llamas”, in the Municipality of Tuxcacuesco, 32 m north of state

highway 429 from El Grullo to Ciudad Guzmán and 2.91 km (by road) SE of Apulco, Jalisco (19.717°N, 103.885°W, WGS-84, 969m elevation). The threadsnake was found under a rock on a trail near a dry creek in a patch of secondary grassland surrounded by tropical deciduous forest. The individual measures 102 mm total length. According to Köhler's color guide book (2012) the color of body is dusky brown (285) with stripes of medium fawn (257); the pale spot on the head is sulphur yellow (80) and the pale tail tip is buff (5). The specimen we found was photographed and released later at the place of capture. The picture was deposited in the Digital Collection of the University of Texas at Arlington (UTADC 9538). The identification of the individual followed the diagnosis and map provided by McCranie & Hedges (2016) and Wallach (2016) and was verified by Larry David Wilson.

Epictia bakewelli is known from a few localities in western Mexico (Fig. 2). The type series collected at Hacienda Paso del Río, Colima (UMMZ 80228; Oliver, 1937); Smith (1943) recorded five specimens, one from Chilpancingo, Guerrero (NMNH 110305); two from Acahuitzotla, Guerrero (NMNH 110306 and 110307); one from La Salada, Periquillo, Municipality of Turicato, Michoacán (NMNH 46340), and the other from Tehuantepec, Oaxaca (NMNH 30295). Peters (1954) recorded 4 specimens from La Placita and one from Ostula in the municipality of Aquila, Michoacán.

This record extends the known distribution of *E. bakewelli* 85.6 km north of the nearest known locality in the type locality in Colima (UMMZ 80228), represents the first vouchered record for the state of Jalisco, and is probably the northernmost record of the species, competing with one record from central Michoacán provided by Wallach (2016) who did not cite localities on his map.



Figura 1. *Epictia bakewelli* (UTADC 9538) fotografiada en el municipio de Tuxcacuesco, estado de Jalisco, México.

Figure 1. *Epictia bakewelli* (UTADC 9538) photographed in the municipality of Tuxcacuesco, state of Jalisco, México.

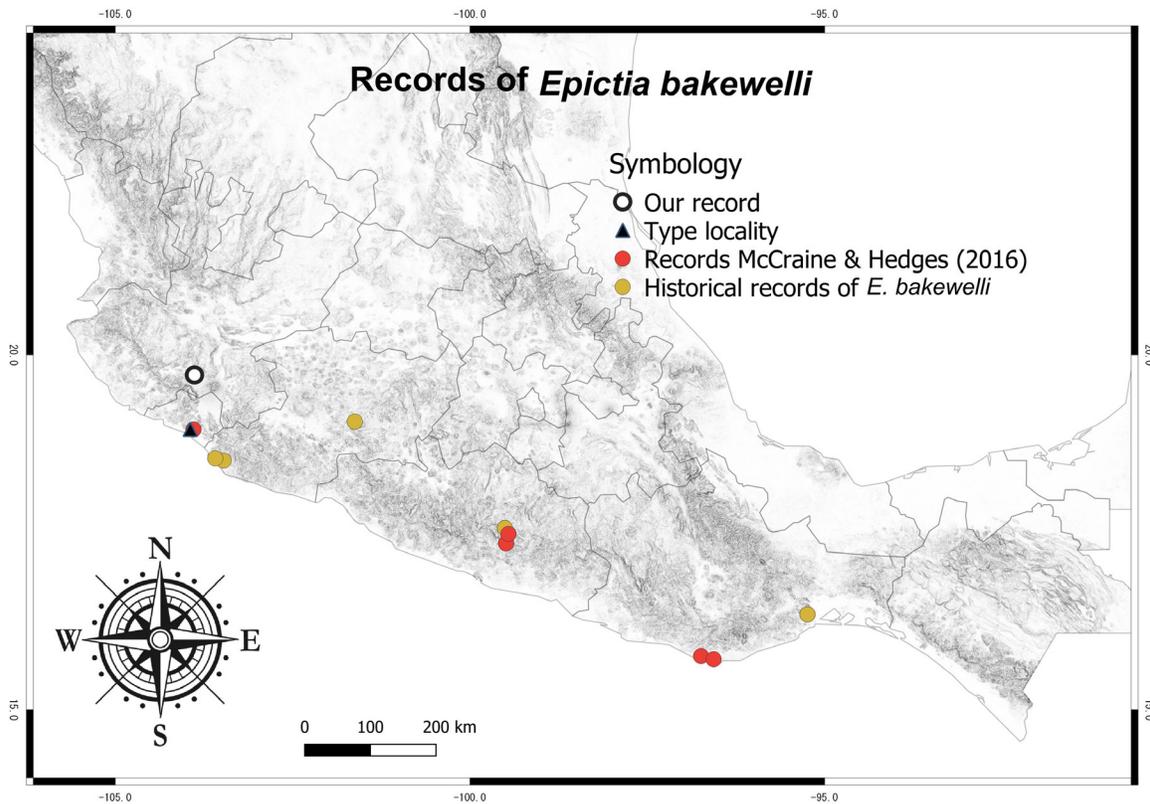


Figura 2. Localidades (Oliver, 1937; Smith, 1943; Peters, 1954 y McCraine & Hedges, 2016) de *Epictia bakewelli* en México.

Figure 2. Localities (Oliver, 1937; Smith, 1943; Peters, 1954 and McCraine & Hedges, 2016) of *Epictia bakewelli* in Mexico.

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