

A NEW GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR *ANOLIS ARENAL* KÖHLER & VARGAS, 2019 (SQUAMATA: DACTYLOIDAE) IN COSTA RICA

UN NUEVO REGISTRO DE DISTRIBUCIÓN GEOGRÁFICA PARA *ANOLIS ARENAL* KÖHLER & VARGAS, 2019 (SQUAMATA: DACTYLOIDAE) EN COSTA RICA

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The genus *Anolis* Wagler, 1830, currently includes 437 recognized species within the family Dactyloidae (Uetz et al., 2021). There are 41 species reported for Costa Rica, the most recently described is *Anolis arenal*; this species is recognizable from the other congeners in Costa Rica by its extremely short hind legs

with the tip of fourth toe of the addressed hind leg reaching only to the level of the shoulder, and by having a geranium red dewlap, with blackish carmine central area in the male dewlap in life (Köhler & Vargas, 2019). *Anolis arenal* has been observed in vegetation 4 to 8 m above ground level, clinging to small leafless

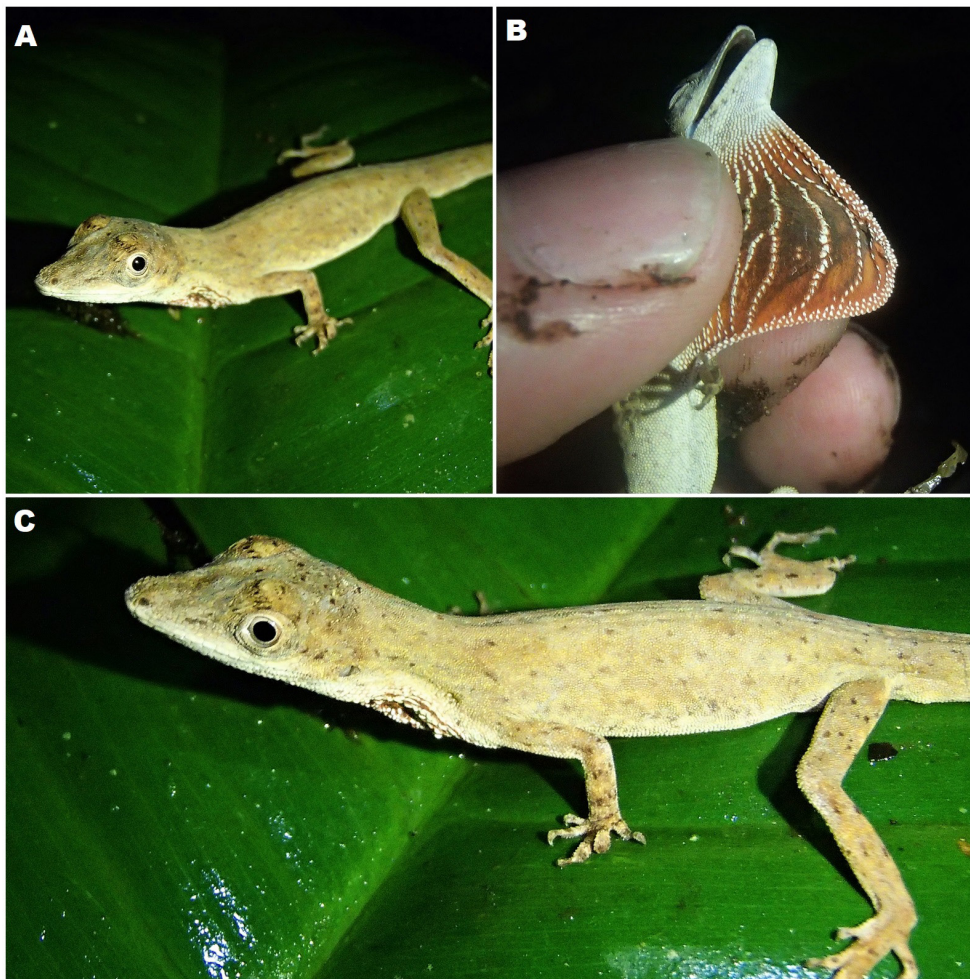


Figura 1. A) Macho adulto de *Anolis arenal* (TNHC 116044) encontrado en un bosque primario en Turrialba, Costa Rica. B) Color del pliegue gular: rojo geranio con el área central carmin oscuro. C) Patrón de color dorsal, nótese los puntos negros dispersos en todo el cuerpo.

Figure 1. A) Adult male of *Anolis arenal* (TNHC 116044) found in a primary forest in Turrialba, Costa Rica. B) Dewlap color: geranium red with blackish carmine central. C) Dorsal color pattern, note the scattered black spots throughout the body.

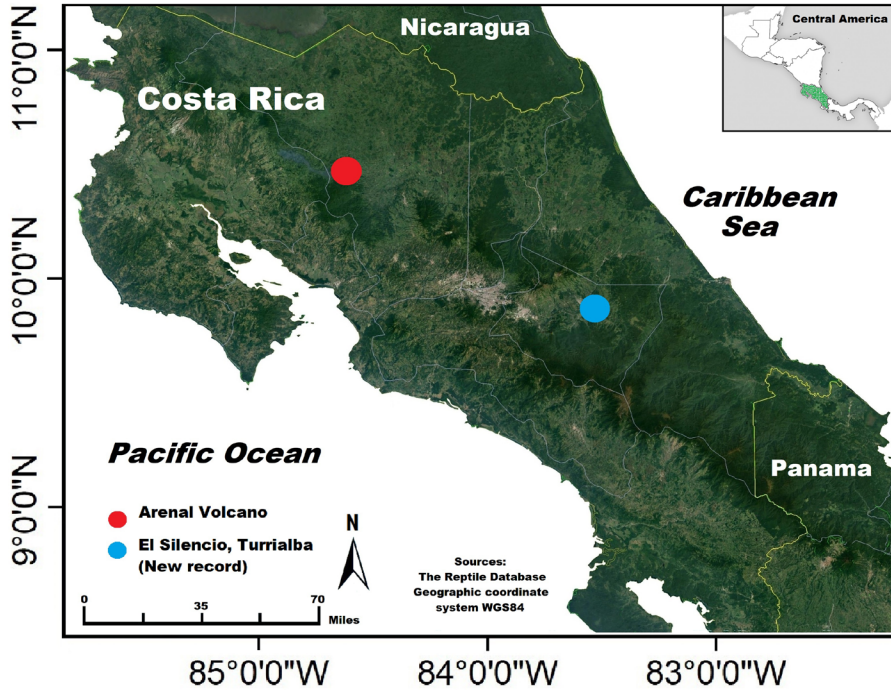


Figura 2. Distribución geográfica conocida de *Anolis arenal* (punto rojo), incluido el nuevo registro en El Silencio de Turrialba (punto azul).

Figure 2. Known geographic distribution of *Anolis arenal* (red point), including the new record in El Silencio de Turrialba (blue point).

twigs on the periphery of the canopy of large trees along a paved path (Köhler & Vargas, 2019). This species is known to occur only from Parque Nacional Volcán Arenal, Alajuela Province, Costa Rica, at elevations between 555 to 585 m a.s.l. (Uetz et al., 2021; Köhler & Vargas, 2019).

On August 18, 2021 at 19:26 h, during a fieldtrip, a lizard was sighted after it falling from a groups of trees in a primary rainforest in El Silencio, Turrialba, Cartago, Costa Rica (9.876019 ° N, 83.612637° W; elevation 951 m. a.s.l.; WGS 84 datum). The specimen was photographed (Digital Camera OLYMPUS TG-820) and the photo-voucher was deposited in the Biodiversity Collections, The University of Texas at Austin (TNHC 116044). We identified the lizard as *Anolis arenal*, based on short limbs, slender habitus and dewlap color (Fig. 1); we also notice that its coloration has a series of black dots scattered throughout the body, similar to the images provided by Köhler & Vargas, (2019) for the Arenal Volcano specimens; identification was confirmed by Joseph Vargas.

The finding of the lizard was in a very humid lower montane forest, it was on a trail located two meters away from a stream called Quebrada Eslabón. The night was rainy and windy, the individual fell to the ground, probably due to these climatic conditions. According to Köhler & Vargas, (2019) this species has been observed in the upper parts of the forest, therefore it can

be difficult to find it near the ground. It is possible that their abundance is greater than what has been reported, but surveys in the canopy of large trees should be increased.

With this observation, the known distribution of this species extends 136 km to the Southeast; therefore its geographic distribution ranges from the Parque Nacional Volcán Arenal in Alajuela to El Silencio de Turrialba, Cartago, Costa Rica (Fig. 2). Turrialba is a region in Costa Rica that still needs to improve herpetofauna studies and inventories, this new record for *Anolis arenal* could motivate further studies in this region.

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CITED LITERATURE

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