

CONIOPHANES LATERITIUS (DIPSADIDAE)

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The dipsadid snake *Coniophanes lateritius*, endemic to Mexico, has been reported from the states of Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco (Ponce-Campos & Smith, 2001), Colima (Reyes-Velasco et al., 2009), Michoacán (Suazo-Ortuño et al., 2014), Sonora (Lara-Resendiz et al., 2016) and most recently from the municipalities of Zihuatanejo de Azueta and Chilpancingo de los Bravo in the state of Guerrero (Palacios-Aguilar et al., 2018). It is known to live in thorn scrub, tropical deciduous forest, and tropical semi-deciduous forest (Reyes-Velasco et al., 2009; Suazo-Ortuño et al., 2014; Palacios-Aguilar et al., 2018) at elevations of 16 to 1600 m (Ponce-Campos, 2007; Palacios-Aguilar et al., 2018). Here we report the third known locality for the state of Guerrero. This new record represents an eastern range extension for this

snake, and it also confirms the presence of the species in a new vegetation type.

Mexico: Guerrero: Municipality of Malinaltepec: Sierra Madre del Sur, between Providencia and Paraje Montero, 0.6 km N and 3.5 km W (airline) of the main church in Paraje Montero (17.16821°; -98.73603°; WGS 84; 1500 m a.s.l.). 25 August 2021 at 13:00 h by Diego García-Morales, Maximiliano Monroy-Sánchez and Adam G. Clause, Museo de Zoología "Alfonso L. Herrera" de la Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad de México (MZFC-HE 35721). An adult male (Fig. 1), 235 mm snout-to-vent length, 96 mm tail length, 7.2 g, 7/7 supralabial scales, 9/9 infralabial scales, 19-19-17 dorsal scale rows, 145 ventral



Figura 1. Macho adulto de *Coniophanes lateritius* (MZFC-HE 35721) encontrado en bosque de pino-encino en el Municipio de Malinaltepec, Guerrero, México.

Figure 1. Adult male *Coniophanes lateritius* (MZFC-HE 35721) found in pine-oak forest in the Municipality of Malinaltepec, Guerrero, Mexico.

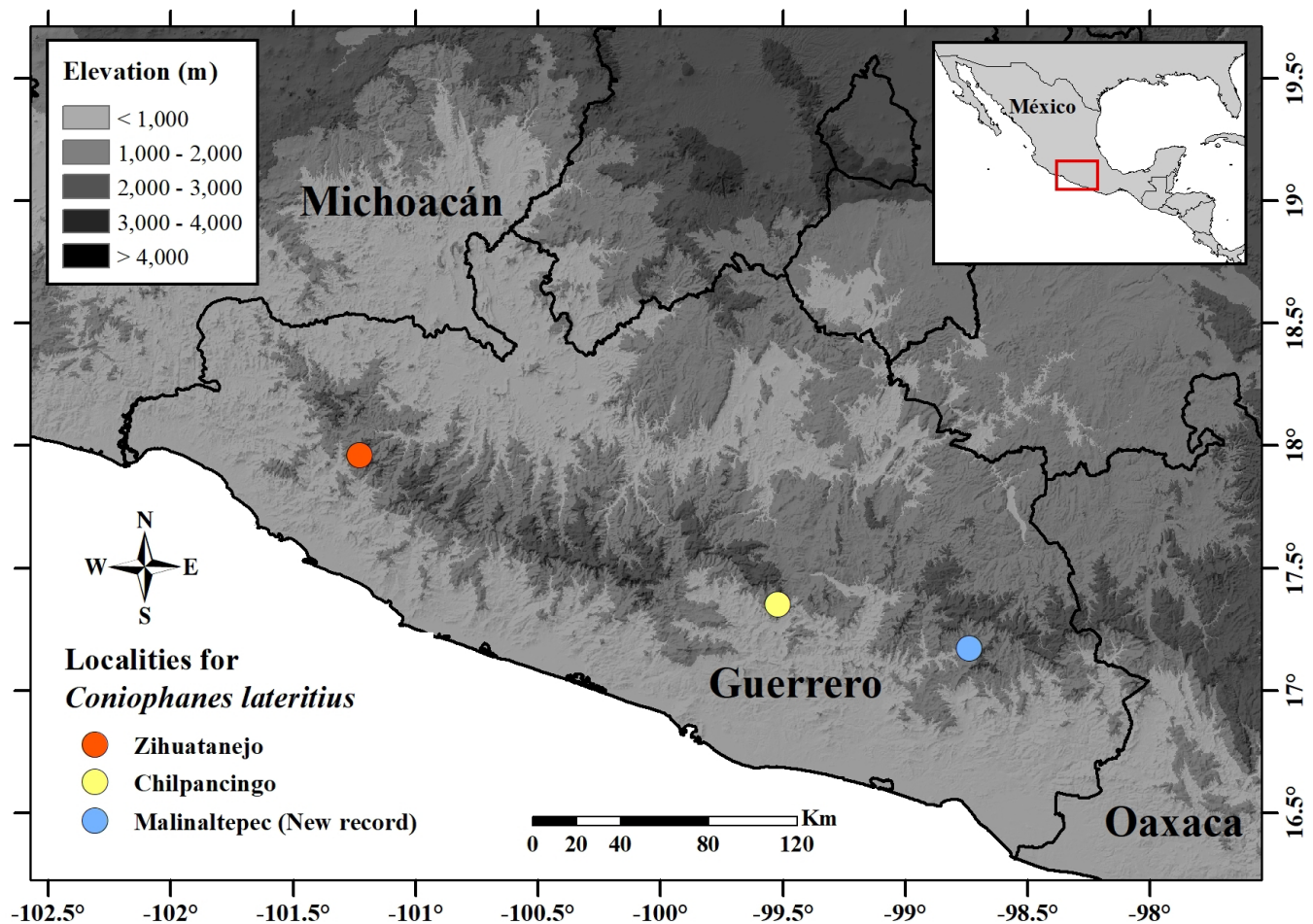


Figura 2. Distribución de *Coniophanes lateritius* en Guerrero, México, mostrando los registros preexistentes (Zihuatanejo y Chilpancingo) y el nuevo registro (Malinaltepec). No se muestra un registro preexistente adicional del sureste de Michoacán.

Figure 2. Distribution of *Coniophanes lateritius* in Guerrero, Mexico, showing pre-existing records (Zihuatanejo & Chilpancingo) and the new record (Malinaltepec). An additional pre-existing record from southeastern Michoacán is not shown.

scales and 87 subcaudal scales. The extensive white spotting on the dorsal surface of the head (Fig. 1) and a pale collar less than four dorsal scales wide readily distinguishes the specimen from *C. melanocephalus*. Furthermore, the scale counts reported above together with the bright red dorsum and sparse black markings on the posterior margin of the pale neck band (Fig. 1) affirm the recent proposal by Palacios-Aguilar & Flores-Villela (2020) to synonymize *C. sarae* with *C. lateritius*. The specimen was found active at the foot of a trail on leaf litter, under an overcast sky with an ambient temperature of 24° C (75° F), in pine-oak forest. This is the first record of *C. lateritius* in this type of vegetation, although Lara-Reséndiz et al. (2016) stated that the species “likely occurs” in both pine-oak forest and oak woodland. This record is 86 km SE of the closest record in Chilpancingo, Municipality of Chilpancingo de los Bravo, Guerrero (Palacios-Aguilar et

al., 2018). Thus, the distribution of the species extends to the Municipality of Malinaltepec in an area often called the Montaña de Guerrero, Malinaltepec Region, or Sierra de Malinaltepec (Fig. 2) (García-Vázquez et al., 2021). We predict that future sampling will confirm the presence of *C. lateritius* in the neighboring state of Oaxaca, whose border lies ca. 50 km E of the new record with no apparent intervening biogeographic barriers.

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