

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Viperidae, Crotalinae, *Porthidium nasutum*: distribution extension and remarks on its range and records.

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Porthidium nasutum inhabits the humid lowlands of Middle America and adjacent northwestern South America from Mexico (Chiapas) southward to Ecuador (Manabí) (Porras et al. 1981, Schätti and Kramer 1993, Campbell and Lamar 2004, Cisneros-Heredia 2004). In Ecuador, it has been reported in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Imbabura, Pichincha, and Manabí, where it inhabits the lowland rainforest, tropical moist forest, and lower montane wet forest of the Chocó region (Porras et al. 1981, Campbell and Lamar, 2004, Pérez-Santos and Moreno 1991, Schätti and Kramer 1993). Herein we report a southern extension in the distribution range of *Porthidium nasutum*. Localities and their geographic coordinates and elevations were determined from researchers' field notes, and museum records, and revised according with a physical map of the Republic of Ecuador (IGM 2000).

A specimen of *Porthidium nasutum* deposited at the Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales (DHMECN 068) was collected at the Cerro San Sebastián, Machalilla National Park (ca. 01°36' S, 80°42' W, 750 m a.s.l.), province of Manabí, on September 1991 (Figure 1). It represents the southernmost record of the species, extending its range ca. 105 km S from the closest known locality (11 km W of Bahía de Caráquez, Cisneros-Heredia 2004) (Figure 1). Cerro San Sebastian is a small hill covered by foothill evergreen and low montane cloud forest. This population of *P. nasutum* appears fairly isolated from other populations of the species by surrounding dry forest.

The specimen reported by Cisneros-Heredia (2004) was the first report of the species from the province of Manabí and it is the same animal pictured by Campbell & Lamar (2004: Fig. 736). However the information accompanying Figure 736 erroneously cited the specimen number as "FHGO-live 698" and the locality as "Kilometer 5, Bahía-Santo Domingo de los Colorados road, Manabí, Ecuador, elevation 56 m".

Another specimen, deposited at the Fundación Herpetológica G. Orcés (FHGO 1256), collected at the Jordán River, near Golondrinas (ca. 00°21' N, 79°02' W, 280 m a.s.l.) on 06 July 1995, represents the second known locality of the species from the province of Imbabura. The species was otherwise known in the province just from Paramba (Schätti & Kramer 1993, Cisneros-Heredia 2004) (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Localities mentioned in the text on the distribution of *Porthidium nasutum* in Ecuador. Provinces are encoded on letters and localities on numbers. E = Esmeraldas, M = Manabí, G = Guayas, P = Pichincha, R = Los Ríos, C = Cotopaxi. 1 = Paramba, 2 = Río Jordán, 3 = Santo Domingo Area, 4 = 11 km W of Bahía de Caráquez, 5 = Cerro San Sebastián.

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The distribution of *Porthidium nasutum* as currently understood reaches its southernmost limit along the northern region of the province of Manabí and in the Santo Domingo de Los Colorados area in the province of Pichincha (Porras et al. 1981, Cisneros-Heredia 2004, this paper). Its distribution seems to be related with the extension of the Unseasonal Evergreen Forests of western Ecuador (Porras et al. 1981, D.F. Cisneros-Heredia pers. obs., see Anderson & Jarrín 2002 for definition of Unseasonal Evergreen Forests), as both localities in Manabí (Bahía de Caráquez and Cerro San Sebastián) are at the contact zone of Unseasonal Evergreen Forests and Seasonally Dry Forests lower 300 m.a.s.l. Although in Central America *P. nasutum* invades xeric habitats, the species does not seem to invade dry areas in Ecuador, where *Porthidium arcossae* occurs (Campbell & Lamar 2004, D.F. Cisneros-Heredia pers. obs.).

Towards the slopes of the Cordillera de Los Andes, the Unseasonal Evergreen Forests extends down to the provinces of Guayas and Cotopaxi. Because no barriers are known to restrict the dispersion of *Porthidium nasutum* into southern Unseasonal Evergreen Forests near the slopes of the Andes, it is very probable that the species will be recorded in the near future in Guayas and Cotopaxi provinces.

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