

WESTERNMOST RECORD OF THE SHORT-NOSED ROCK LIZARD (*PETROSAURUS REPENS*; SQUAMATA: PHRYNOSOMATIDAE) AND COMMENTS ON ITS DISTRIBUTION

REGISTRO MÁS OCCIDENTAL DEL LAGARTO DE ROCA DE NARIZ CORTA (*PETROSAURUS REPENS*; SQUAMATA: PHRYNOSOMATIDAE) Y COMENTARIOS SOBRE SU DISTRIBUCIÓN

RAFAEL ALEJANDRO LARA-RESENDIZ^{1,2*} & JORGE HERIBERTO VALDEZ-VILLAVICENCIO¹

¹Conservación de Fauna del Noroeste A.C., Ensenada, Baja California, 22830, México.

²Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora, Cd. Obregón, Sonora, 85000, México.

*Correspondence: rafas.lara@gmail.com

Received: 2022-09-08. **Accepted:** 2023-03-15. **Published:** 2023-04-26.

Editor: Carlos Alberto Hernández Jiménez, México.

The short-nosed rock lizard, *Petrosaurus repens* (Van Denburgh, 1895), is a large oviparous phrynosomatid lizard endemic to the Baja California peninsula in Mexico. This lizard occurs from central Baja California to the Isthmus of La Paz in Baja California Sur and is also found on Isla Danzante and Isla Coronados in the Gulf of California (Grismer & Mahrtdt, 1996; Grismer, 2002; Venegas-Barrera et al., 2006). The northernmost locality of *P. repens* has been recorded by Bostic (1971), 10.9 miles NE of Rancho Santa Catarina, west of Cataviña. Grismer (2002)

mentioned a population of *P. repens* within Mesa San Carlos, without providing any detailed information on this locality. Here we describe and confirm the westernmost record of this lizard and provide information on another isolated record.

México: Baja California: Municipality of San Quintín: Mesa San Carlos (29.619°N, 115.412°W, Datum WGS84; 508 m a.s.l.). On April 26, 2022, 17 *P. repens* were seen and photographed basking on basaltic rocks (Fig. 1 A and B) on the west edge of Mesa San

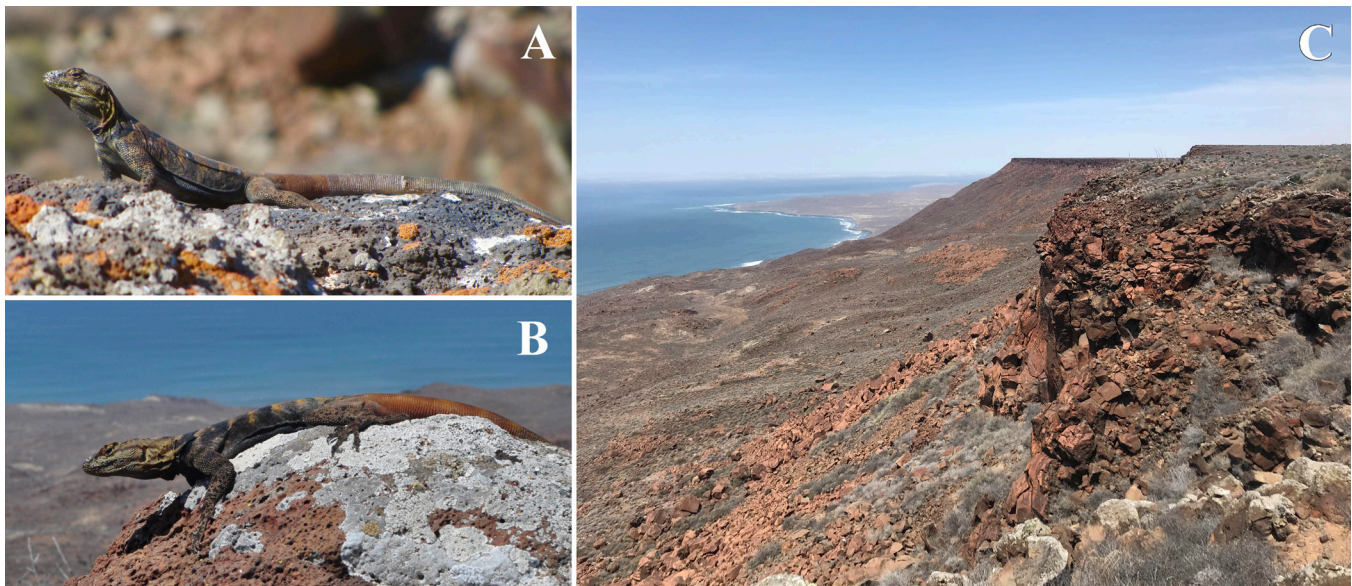


Figure 1. (A-B) Dos individuos de *Petrosaurus repens* (foto vouchers CNAR-RF 751 y 752) de la Mesa de San Carlos, Baja California; y (C) el hábitat de *P. repens* en el borde oeste de la Mesa de San Carlos.

Figure 1. (A-B) Two individuals of *Petrosaurus repens* (photo vouchers CNAR-RF 751 and 752) from Mesa San Carlos, Baja California; and (C) the habitat of *P. repens* on the western edge of Mesa San Carlos.

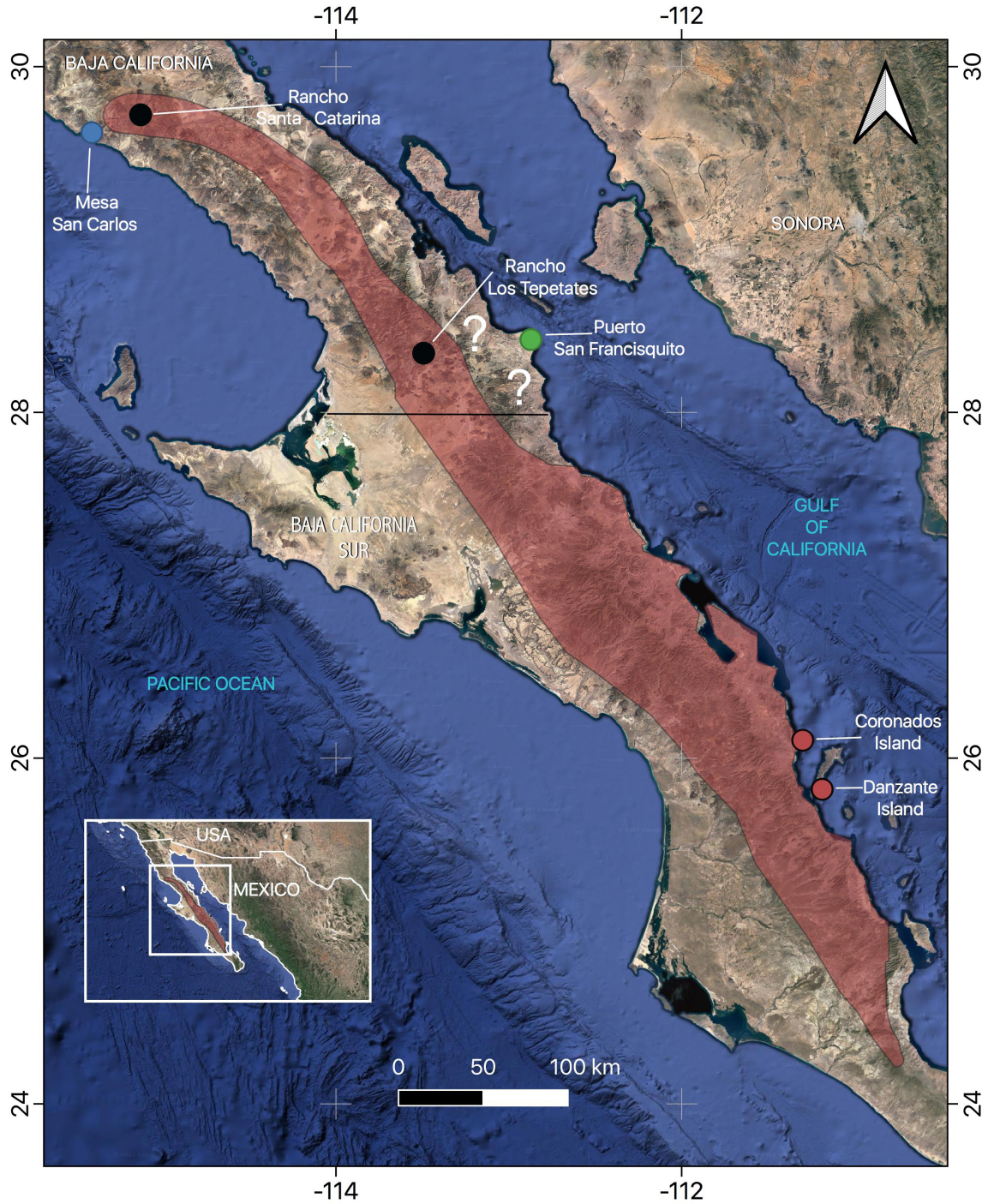


Figura 2. Distribución de *Petrosaurus repens* basado en Grismer (2002) y HerpAtlas (2022). El punto azul muestra el registro de la Mesa San Carlos (CNAR-RF-751 y 752), el punto verde muestra el registro de Puerto San Francisquito (registro en línea 21403390) y los puntos negros muestran los registros más cercanos, respectivamente. Los signos de interrogación indican las áreas donde se esperan más poblaciones de *P. repens*, pero se requiere confirmación. Los puntos rojos muestran las islas donde también se distribuye la especie.

Figure 2. Distribution of *Petrosaurus repens*, based on Grismer (2002) and HerpAtlas (2022). Blue dot represents Mesa San Carlos (CNAR-RF-751 and 752), green dot represents Puerto San Francisquito (online record 21403390) and black dots represent the nearest records, respectively. Question marks indicate areas where further *P. repens* populations are expected, but require confirmation. The red dots represent the islands where the species is also distributed.

Carlos, 2.5 km from the Pacific coastline (Fig. 1 C). Our records were verified by Anny Peralta-García, and two photos were deposited in the Colección Nacional de Anfibios y Reptiles, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (CNAR-RF-751 and 752; photo vouchers). This population is located within the southern end of the Coastal Succulent Scrub ecoregion and in the Valle de los Cirios protected area. The habitat is mainly composed of large volcanic rocks (Fig. 1 C), with a significant amount of moisture that comes from coastal fog and marine breezes that are brought in by northwest winds (Rebman & Roberts, 2012). The vegetation is dominated by small shrubs and cacti, such as *Ambrosia bryantii*, *Ferocactus gracilis*, *Hesperoyucca whipplei*, and *Echinocereus maritimus*. The herpetofauna we observed within 2 km of the record were *Uta stansburiana*, *Urosaurus nigricaudus*, *Sceloporus orcutti*, and *Phrynosoma cerroense*. This record represents a new location within Mesa San Carlos and the first record nearby since 1971 (Bostic, 1971; Grismer, 2002). This new coastal locality is the westernmost population reported for the species from throughout its documented range in Baja California (44.5 km from 17.5 km NE Rancho Santa Catarina; Bostic, 1971).

Secondly, via citizen science data (iNaturalist: www.inaturalist.org; August 28, 2022) we found an isolated record of *P. repens* (online record 21403390) that increase its known distribution range 61.5 km to the east, as the nearest known specimen record was located to the west-southwest at Rancho Los Tepetates, Sierra de la Libertad, San Quintín, Baja California (CH-UABC 972-976,978; GBIF.org 2022). This online record was observed on March 8, 2019 at 600 meters southwest of Puerto San Francisquito, Municipality of San Quintín, Baja California (28.42147°N, 112.87164°W; Fig. 2). This record was confirmed by Anny Peralta-García and Bradford D. Hollingsworth. Field work between both localities is needed to confirm its distribution in this region of the Gulf of California. Our record, as well as this citizen science observation, significantly increase the known distribution of this Mexican endemic and understudied species.

Acknowledgments.— We thank Area de Protección de Flora y Fauna Valle de los Cirios (CONANP) for the facilities and Adriana González for cataloging the photographs. Our work was approved under SEMARNAT permit SGPA/DGVS/01370/22 to JHVV. RALR would like to thank CONACyT-ITSON repatriation program (2022-2023; 165066) for their support. Finally, we thank Patricia Galina-Tessaro, Ricardo Palacios, and Elizabeth K. Lopez for their careful review of this manuscript.

CITED LITERATURE

- Bostic, D.L. 1971. Herpetofauna of the Pacific coast of North Central Baja California, Mexico, with a description of a new subspecies of *Phyllodactylus xanti*. Transactions of the San Diego Society of Natural History 16:237-264.
- GBIF.Org. 2022. *Petrosaurus repens*. Occurrence Download. The Global Biodiversity Information Facility <https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.pnyq5w>. [Accessed on 29 August 2022].
- Grismer, L.L. 2002. Amphibians and Reptiles of Baja California, including its Pacific Islands and the Islands in the Sea of Cortés. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, USA.
- Grismer, L.L. & C.R. Mahrtdt. 1996. *Petrosaurus repens* (Short-nose Rock Lizard). Herpetological Review 27:153.
- HerpAtlas. 2022. *Petrosaurus repens*. Amphibian and Reptile Atlas of Peninsular California. San Diego Natural History Museum. <https://herpatlas.sdnhm.org> [Accessed on 27 August 2022].
- Rebman, J.P. & N.C. Roberts. 2012. Baja California Plant Field Guide, 3rd Edition. San Diego Natural History Museum and Sunbelt Publications, San Diego, California, USA.
- Venegas-Barrera, C.S., G. Arnaud, L.L. Grismer & A. Rodriguez. 2006. *Petrosaurus repens* (Short-nosed Rock Lizard). Herpetological Review 37:241.

