Family Eublepharidae

Coleonyx fasciatus (Boulenger, 1885). MEXICO: SONORA: Municipio de Nacozari de García, Pilares de Nacozari, 6.5 km (airline distance) SE of Nacozari de García, Sierra Nacozari (30.32833°N, -109.62972°W; WGS 84), elev. 1,413 m; 9 August 2015; Patrick H. H. Brown. The individual was found at ca. 2230 h, emerging from a crack in a concrete staircase among the abandoned buildings of Pilares de Nacozari. A photo voucher (UAZ 57635-PSV) was deposited in the University of Arizona Museum of Natural History Amphibian and Reptile Collection. Data collection and an image of the same individual (Fig. 1) also are available in the Madrean Discovery Expedition database (www.madreandiscovery.org; record mde-3993). This observation represents a new municipality record, with the closest published locality ca. 47 km to the W in the vicinity of Arizpe (Rorabaugh, 2005). The burnt orange coloration on the head and neck of this voucher is unusual for this species.

The transition between the New World tropics and the northern temperate zone lies at about 29°N in east-central Sonora. Foothills thornscrub (matorral espinoso) is an important biotic community in Sonora, which is transitional between Sonoran desertscrub and tropical deciduous forest in southern Sonora and oak woodland in eastern Sonora (Van Devender et al., 2013). The transition between foothills thornscrub (FTS) and desert grassland in the north is limited by freezing temperatures. In the north FTS is replaced by desert grassland, as winters become colder and periodic fires become ecological processes. The northern limits of FTS in Sonora are at about 30°11’N east of Sinoquipe in the Río Sonora Valley (just north of Arizpe) and 30°26’N at Presa Angostura on the Río Bavispe at the southern end of the Sierra El Tigre. FTS does not reach Arizona, but the distributions of several squamates that inhabit thornscrub extend into southern Arizona in desert grassland or oak woodland (e.g., Gyalopion quadrangulare and Oxybelis aeneus). On the south side of the Sierra de Nacozari there are local patches of thornscrub with tree ocotillo (Fouquieria macleodii) near Pilares de Nacozari. Other tropical species, including Boa sigma, reach their northern distributional limits in the Río Sonora Valley just north of Arizpe. Coleonyx fasciatus at Arizpe and Pilares de Nacozari are similar records of a tropical species reaching its northern limits. This species mostly is known from tropical deciduous forest in southern Sonora, 375 km to the SSE of Pilares de Nacozari.

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Family Phrynosomatidae

Phrynosoma orbiculare (Linnaeus, 1758). MEXICO: OAXACA. Municipio de Santo Domingo Yanhuitlán, Cruz de Tabla (17.575927°N, -97.352579°W; WGS 84), elev. 2,539 m; 28 September 2012. Clarita Alicia Ibarra-Contreras. A photograph of this individual is deposited in the University of Texas at El Paso Vertebrate Digital Collection (Photo Voucher UTEP G-2016.38). This voucher (Fig. 1) represents the first record of P. orbiculare in the state of Oaxaca, and extends the range ca. 95 km to the S from the closest known published locality at San Diego Chalma, Puebla, Mexico (Smith and Taylor, 1950). The lizard was found at noon on rocky substrate with scarce vegetation, with the surrounding area consisting of pine-oak forest; this location lies in the Montañas y Valles del Occidente physiographic region (Mata-Silva et al., 2015). While researching the distribution of this species in the state of Puebla, we became aware of a specimen of P. orbiculare (CM 38890) deposited at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and its information is available on VertNet (2016). The locality for this specimen is Zapotitlán de Las Salinas, and it was collected by Epping Otto M. in 1963. We decided, however, to omit this record as the nearest locality because this species has not been reported from this region (Mata-Silva, 2003; Woolrich-Piña et al., 2005; Canseco-Márquez and Gutiérrez-Mayén, 2006; Canseco-Márquez and Gutiérrez-Mayén, 2010), and the site does not correspond with the typical habitat of P. orbiculare. At VertNet (2016) we also found information on a specimen (ROM 0849) deposited at the Royal Ontario Museum, which was identified as P. orbiculare and supposedly was found in Oaxaca; however, we verified that the specimen actually was found in northern Puebla (10 km S of Zaragoza by M. Villegas in 1969).

Fig. 1. An adult Phrynosoma orbiculare (UTEP G-2016.38) from Cruz de Tabla, Municipio de Santo Domingo Yanhuitlán, Oaxaca, Mexico.

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