

## REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: SAURIA :ANGUIDAE

## DIPLOGLOSSUS MONTISILVESTRIS

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

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***Diploglossus montisilvestris* Myers**

*Diploglossus montisilvestris* Myers, 1973: 3. Type-locality, "Serranía de Pirre, Province of Darién, Republic of Panamá." Holotype, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History 113660, an adult female collected at an elevation of 1440 m on May 25, 1965, by Charles W. Myers and Tomás Quintero (not seen by authors).

- **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** A small *Diploglossus*, known from a single specimen, reaching a snout-vent length of 100 mm and a total length of 187 mm. The claws are sheathed. There is a single large prefrontal (no separate frontonasal). The nasal and rostral are not fused, and the nostril is in the middle of the nasal. The postnasal is single. The ventral trunk scales are smooth, the remainder of the scales on the body are striated. Those in the trunk lack distinct median keels. The dorsal coloration is brown with approximately 16 irregular blackish bars across the top of the neck and trunk. The sides are indistinctly mottled and the ventral coloration in life is yellow-green (gray in preservative) with small black spots.

• **Diagnosis.** *Diploglossus montisilvestris* differs from most other mainland *Diploglossus* (including *Celestus*) by the separation of the nasal from the rostral, and from the majority of Antillean, and some mainland species, by the presence of an ungual sheath. This species could be confused with *D. bilobatus* of Costa Rica and western Panamá, the geographically closest congener. Both are small brown anguids that possess sheathed claws. *D. montisilvestris* differs significantly from *D. bilobatus* by having a nasal-rostral separation, by possessing one postnasal (two in *D. bilobatus*) and by having the superolateral scale of the ungual sheath overlapped by the upper edge of the inferior scale (reversed in *D. bilobatus*).

• **Descriptions.** Details of sculation, coloration, general morphology, and a table of comparisons with *D. bilobatus* are in Myers (1973).

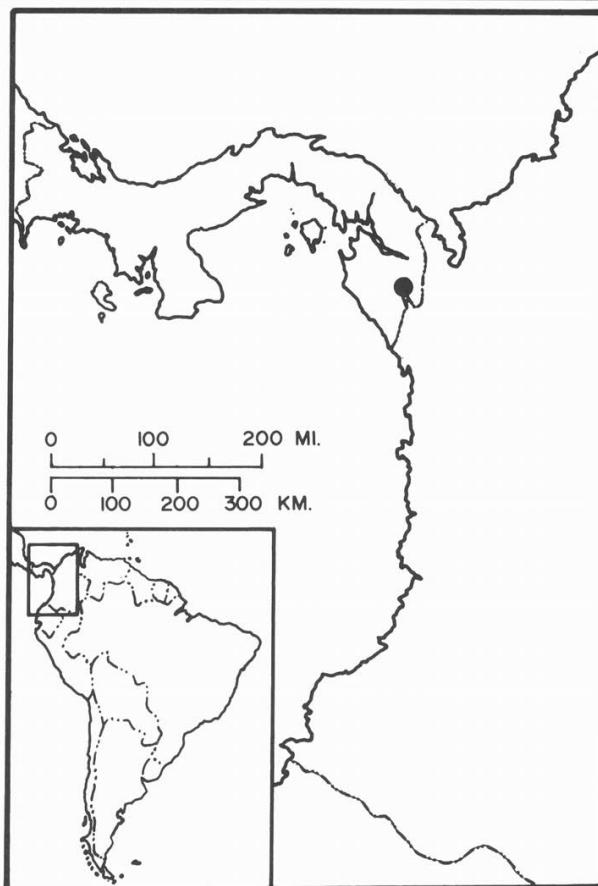
• **Illustrations.** Dorsal and ventral black and white photographs, dorsal and lateral sketches of the head, and sketches of a middorsal osteoderm and toes, are in Myers (1973). Strahm and Schwartz (1977) illustrate middorsal osteoderms.

• **Distribution.** The species is known only from the type locality, which is in a cloud forest covering the top of the Serranía de Pirre, an isolated mountain ridge (see Myers, 1969, for a description). The locality is within a forest refuge proposed by Prance (1982) on the basis of angiosperm distribution. The lizard was found on the side of a tree, about three-quarters of a meter above ground.

- **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** The most comprehensive work on the species is that of Myers (1973). It contains a good description of the species, comparisons with other anguid lizards (*Diploglossus* and *Celestus*), and a key that includes the Panamanian species of *Diploglossus*. Strahm and Schwartz (1977) compare several osteoderms among *Diploglossus*, including *D. montisilvestris*.

• **Remarks.** Myers (1973) suggested that *montisilvestris* might be arboreal because of the collection site, and the possession of relatively long toes and reduced claw sheaths. *Diploglossus* are not otherwise known to be arboreal with one exception reported for the Jamaican species *D. foulkleri* (Schwartz, 1971).



Map. Distribution of *Diploglossus montisilvestris*.

• **Etymology.** The species name means "of mountain forest," and is derived from the Latin prefix *monti* (mountain) plus the adjective *silvestris* (belonging to forest).

#### Literature Cited

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