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## Anguid Lizards of the Genus *Diploglossus* in Panama, with the Description of a New Species

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### ABSTRACT

Three species of *Diploglossus* occur in Panama. *Diploglossus montisilvestris* is described from cloud forest of the Serranía de Pirre, Darién Province. The new species differs from most other mainland *Diploglossus* (*Celestus* included) in having the nasal scale separated from the rostral, and from most Antillean and some mainland species in having an unguis (claw) sheath. It is superficially similar to *D. bilobatus* but differs significantly in characteristics of the nasal region, in the unguis sheath, and in other characters; it is possibly arboreal, whereas *D. bilobatus* is terrestrial.

*Diploglossus bilobatus* is reported from Panama for the first time, and a photograph from life is presented. Although not abundant, the large, orange-bellied *Diploglossus monotropis* is well known in Panama, being called *escorpión coral* in the west and by the Colombian names *madre de culebra* and *madre coral* in the east. Each of the three species is defined and diagnosed and the coloration described from life. A key is given to the three genera and five species of Anguidae in Panama.

### INTRODUCTION

Three genera of skinklike lizards of the family Anguidae occur in the Republic of Panama. The northern *Gerrhonotus* (*Barisia*, *auctorum*) is found at the limit of its range in a few volcanic craters in Chiriquí Province, western Panama. The monotypic *Coloptychon* also is supposed to live in "Chiriquí"; this enigmatical genus is known to science only from a single

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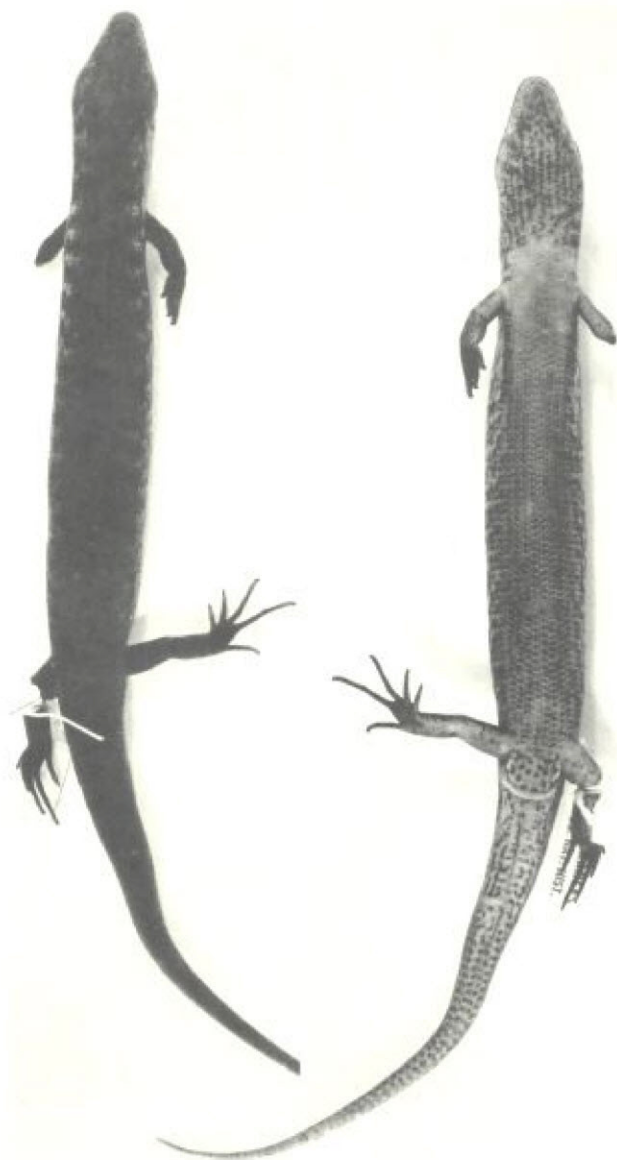


FIG. 1. Holotype of *Diploglossus montisilvestris*, new species.  $\times 0.9$ .

