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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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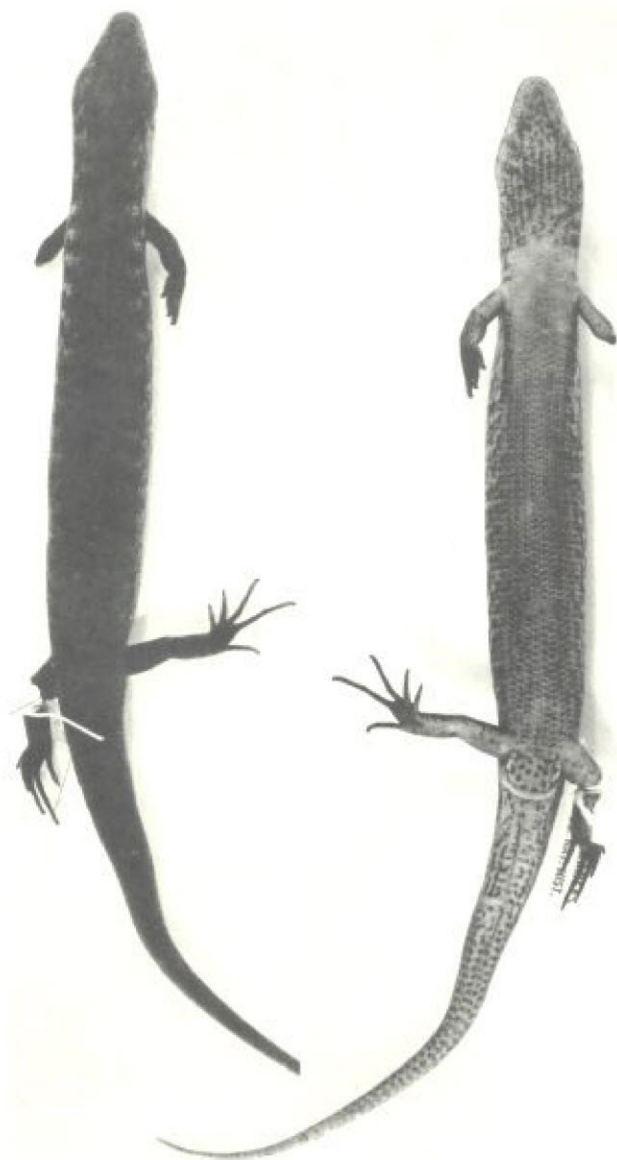


FIG. 1. Holotype of *Diploglossus montisilvestris*, new species. $\times 0.9$.

