



More notes on Alfredo Dugès' names for Mexican reptilian taxa

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Alfredo Dugès, considered the father of Mexican herpetology (Smith & Smith 1969) lived in the city of Guanajuato, México, where he formed a cabinet of natural history, today the Museo Alfredo Dugès. During the course of an investigation dealing with his life and contributions we have restudied his collections and contributions to Mexican herpetology. Dugès proposed 41 taxonomic names in herpetology. One of these names was considered a *nomen nudum* by Smith and Smith (1969), 10 were erected for new genera, two for new subgenera, 24 for new species, and four for new subspecies. Five names — three genera and two species — do not belong to the Mexican fauna (Flores-Villela *et al.* in prep). Previous comments on A. Dugès' names have been made by Smith (1968, 1969) and Smith and Smith (1969).

After the revision of Smith and Smith (1969), three names remain to be clarified and their proper status is here evaluated. When Dugès (1883) described *Hemidactylus navarri*, he commented (p. 312; translation ours): “The singular characteristic of the back of the knee in the largest one of these individuals prompted me to create a new subgenus with the name of *Chalinocnemis* (leg with a hold) or *Spasmocnemis* (linked leg) that would recall this anatomical peculiarity, but upon examination of the younger specimens I was unable to find such a character. Would this be a sexual difference or individual characteristic? It is necessary to have more specimens and compare them, and then decide if there is a reason to accept the name I wanted to introduce to science.” Thus, Dugès (1883) mentioned the names but did not adopt them and clearly did not formally propose either *Chalinocnemis* or *Spasmocnemis* as valid names. Under Article 11.5 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN): “To be available, a name must be used as valid for a taxon when proposed ...” Accordingly, these two names are unavailable and this should be noted whenever they are included in a list of synonyms of the gekkonid genus *Gehyra* (e.g., Bauer 1994, contra Smith and Taylor 1950).

The third name, *Sceloporus westphalii*, was proposed by Dugès (1877). About this name Dugès stated (p. 30; translation ours) in the description of *Sceloporus intermedius* (= *S. dugesi*): “I wanted to give it the name *Sc. Westphalii*, ... but it was not possible since I had already named it with the first name [*S. intermedius*] in the list that I published in the first issue of ‘La Naturaleza’.” Here Dugès makes reference to his work in *La Naturaleza* (1869), where he listed *Tropidolepis intermedius* from Guanajuato. Although Dugès (1877) gives a description of the species, he mentioned that *S. westphalii* should not be used with the description published for *S. intermedius*. Thus, as for *Chalinocnemis* and *Spasmocnemis*, this name was not considered valid by Dugès (1877) when he proposed it and under Article 11.5 of the Code it is unavailable. As such it is not available as a substitute name for *S. intermedius* as was suggested by Smith and Taylor (1950), nor should it be considered occupied as stated by Bell *et al.* (2003).

In conclusion, Dugès proposed 41 names of which four should be considered *nomina nuda*, five do not pertain to the fauna of México and are not dealt with here; of the remaining 32, 15 are currently considered valid (Table 1).

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TABLE 1. Names proposed by Dugès for the Mexican herpetofauna (1865–1905).

Higher Taxon	Rank	Name by Dugès	Year	Status	Current name
AMPHIBIA					
ANURA					
Elutherodactylidae	species	<i>Hylodes augusti</i>	1879a	valid	<i>Craugastor a. augusti</i>
CAUDATA					
Ambystomidae	species	<i>Siredon dumerilii</i>	1870b	valid	<i>Ambystoma dumerilii</i>
	species	<i>Siredon edule</i>	1884	not valid	<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>
	subspecies	<i>Siredon lichenoides alba</i>	1869	<i>nomen nudum</i> ¹	<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>
	species	<i>Amblystoma altamirani</i>	1895	valid	<i>Ambystoma altamirani</i>
	species	<i>Amblystoma velasci</i>	1888a	valid	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum velasci</i>
REPTILIA					
SQUAMATA					
Bipedidae	genus	<i>Hemichirotes</i>	1894	not valid	<i>Bipes</i>
	species	<i>Hemichirotes tridactylus</i>	1894	valid	<i>Bipes tridactylus</i>
Gekkonidae	genus	<i>Chalinocnemis</i>	1883	<i>nomen nudum</i>	<i>Gehyra</i>
	genus	<i>Spasmocnemis</i>	1883	<i>nomen nudum</i>	<i>Gehyra</i>
	species	<i>Hemidactylus navarri</i>	1883	not valid	<i>Gehyra mutilata</i>
Phrynosomidae	species	<i>Phrynosoma taurus</i> (n.n. of 1869)	1870a	valid	<i>Phrynosoma taurus</i>
	subspecies	<i>Tapaya orbicularis longicaudatus</i>	1888b	not valid	<i>Phrynosoma o. orbiculare</i>
	species	<i>Sceloporus intermedius</i> (n.n. of 1869)	1877	not valid	<i>Sceloporus dugesi</i>
	species	<i>Sceloporus westphalii</i>		<i>nomen nudum</i>	<i>Sceloporus dugesi</i>
Scincidae	genus	<i>Platypholis</i>	1891a	not valid	<i>Mesoscincus</i>
	species	<i>Eumeces altamirani</i>	1891a	valid	<i>Mesoscincus altamirani</i>
	species	<i>Eumeces rovirosae</i>	1893	not valid	<i>Plestiodon sumichrasti</i>
Colubridae	species	<i>Contia michoacanensis</i>	1885	valid	<i>Sonora michoacanensis</i>
	genus	<i>Morenoa</i>	1905	not valid	<i>Drymarchon</i>
	species	<i>Morenoa orizabensis</i>	1905	valid	<i>Drymarchon melanurus orizabensis</i>
	genus	<i>Oreophis</i>	1897	not valid	<i>Lampropeltis</i>
	species	<i>Oreophis boulengeri</i>	1897	not valid	<i>Lampropeltis m. mexicana</i>
	species	<i>Rhinocheilus antonii</i>	1886	valid	<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei antonii</i>
Dipsadidae	species	<i>Erythrolamprus grammophrys</i>	1888c	not valid	<i>Rhadinaea laureata</i>
	genus	<i>Geatractus</i> (<i>G. tecpanecus</i>)	1898	not valid	<i>Tropidodipsas</i>
	species	<i>Geophis tecpanecus</i>	1896b	not valid	<i>Tropidodipsas annulifera</i>
	species	<i>Liophis janii</i>	1865	valid	<i>Hypsiglena jani</i>
Natricidae	genus	<i>Adelophis</i>	1879b	valid	<i>Adelophis</i>
	species	<i>Adelophis copei</i>	1879b	valid	<i>Adelophis copei</i>
	genus	<i>Hemigenius</i>	1888c	not valid	<i>Storeria</i>
	species	<i>Hemigenius variabilis</i>	1888c	not valid	<i>Storeria storerioides</i>
	subspecies	<i>Storeria dekayi anomala</i>	1888d	valid	<i>Storeria dekayi anomala</i>
Elapidae	subspecies	<i>Elaps diastema michoacanensis</i> ²	1891b	valid	<i>Micrurus distans michoacanensis</i>
Viperidae	species	<i>Crotalus jimenezi</i>	1877	not valid	<i>Crotalus polystictus</i>
TESTUDINES					
Kinosternidae	species	<i>Cinosternon guanajuatense</i>	1888a	not valid	<i>Kinosternon integrum</i>

¹See Smith (1968). ²Elevated to species level by Dugès (1896a).

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