

## Amphibia: Caudata

### Family Plethodontidae

*Pseudoeurycea mystax* Bogert, 1966. MEXICO, OAXACA, Municipio Totontepec Villa de Morelos, 8.6 km W of Totontepec Villa de Morelos (17°16'31.49"N, 96°6'27.71"W; WGS 84); elev. 2,038 m; 10 March 2014; Roberto Flores-Diego, Sandra O. Peláez-Santiago, César T. Aldape-López, and Mario C. Lavariega-Nolasco. During a biological survey in an Indigenous and community conserved area (ICCA; see Martin et al., 2011) in the town of Totontepec Villa de Morelos, in the Sierra Mixe, at 1604 h we observed an individual of *Pseudoeurycea mystax*. The salamander was found along the road from Totontepec Villa de Morelos to San Andrés Yaa, 28 km to the NW of the type locality at “0.9 kilometers east-northeast of Ayutla, Oaxaca, in the Distrito de Villa Alta” (Bogert, 1967: 12; Fig. 1). The individual was found in cloud forest near a bromeliad (*Catopsis* sp.) lying on the ground, where it was photographed (Fig. 2). A photo voucher of this individual is deposited at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)’s Biodiversity Collections (Herpetology Observations); photo voucher UTEPObs:Herp120.

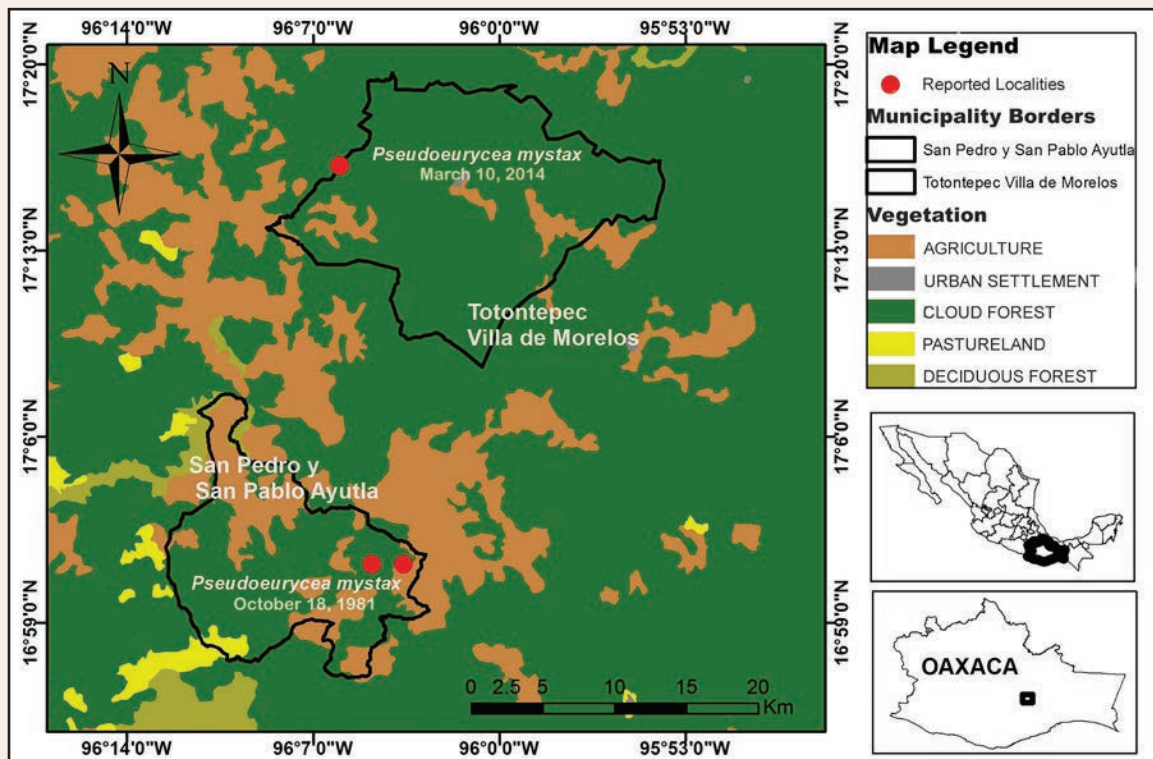


Fig. 1. Historical and current records for *Pseudoeurycea mystax* in the Sierra Mixe, Oaxaca, Mexico.

We identified the individual as *P. mystax* based on the presence of round, black spots on the dorsum and flanks anterior to the insertion of the hind limbs, as well as faint traces of pink pigment along the back and snout. Additionally, a few black spots were present on the tail, with large, black-bordered white spots mostly concentrated laterally. Among the most conspicuous elements of the color pattern were the presence of irregularly-sized white spots on the tail and occasionally on the rear flank of the trunk, as reported by Bogert (1967). *Pseudoeurycea mystax* was described based on two specimens (AMNH No. 76363 and 76362) collected by C. M. Bogert on July 26, 1966 under rocks along a creek locally known as the Rio Alacrán, at an elevation of ca. 2,050 m. Subsequently, on 18 October 1981 David B. Wake collected four specimens, plus an additional specimen with Theodore J. Papenfuss, in a canyon 1 km E of the towns of San Pedro and San Pablo Ayutla (Arctos, 2017), and collectively these remain the only known specimens of this species.

The distance between the historical records and the record reported herein suggests that *P. mystax* might occur in cloud forest along Cerro Zempoaltépetl in Oaxaca. Furthermore, our voucher represents the first record in 34 years, and highlights the need for conducting biological inventories in this region. According to Mexican law, *P. mystax* is endemic to the Sierra Mixe of Oaxaca and is categorized as threatened (A = amanazada; SEMARNAT, 2010), whereas the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists this species as Critically Endangered (IUCN, 2016). Furthermore, Wilson et al. (2015) assessed this species an Environmental Vulnerability Score (EVS) of 18, which is in the upper portion of the Endangered category. The conservation of *P. mystax*, as well as the species with which it coexists and their habitats, might depend on the decisions taken by residents to target that area as an ICCA, an emerging conservation strategy in the state of Oaxaca (Ortega del Valle et al., 2010).



**Fig. 2.** An individual of *Pseudoeurycea mystax* (UTEPObs:Herp120) found 8.6 km W of Totontepec Villa de Morelos, Municipio de Totontepec Villa de Morelos, Oaxaca, Mexico. 📷 © Roberto Flores-Diego

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## Reptilia: Squamata (lizards)

### Family Polychrotidae

***Polychrus guttuosus* Berthold, 1845.** HONDURAS: ATLÁNTIDA: Parque Nacional Pico Bonito, The Lodge & Spa at Pico Bonito; two individuals of *Polychrus guttuosus* were observed within the park. The first was found by Chris Benson on 9 December 2014 at 0930 h, basking on a boulder along the Río Coloradito (15°39'53.89"N, 86°54'29.17"W; WGS 84; elev. 326 m). A photo voucher of this individual is deposited at The University of Texas at Arlington Collection of Vertebrates Digital Collection (UTADC-8935; Fig. 1A). On 27 March 2017 at 1020 h, one of us (JA) observed the second individual basking on a boulder along the Río Corinto (15°40'33.06"N 56°53'26.92"W; WGS 84; elev. 410 m; Fig. 1B), despite the roaring water and mist produced by a nearby waterfall.

In Honduras, this species has been recorded in two ecophysiological regions (the Eastern Caribbean Lowlands that contain parts of the departments of Cortés and Yoro, and the Western Caribbean Lowlands that contain the departments of Gracias a Dios and a part of El Paraíso; McCranie and Wilson, 2002; McCranie et al. 2006); however the only confirmed records of this species are from the department of Gracias a Dios between Biosfera del Río Platano and Reserva Biológica de Rus Rus (McCranie et al., 2006). The voucher (UTADC-8935) and photograph of the second individual reported herein represent the northernmost records along the Caribbean coast of the country (Fig. 2), as well as from its entire range, which extends from northwestern Honduras and western Costa Rica to northwestern Ecuador (Savage, 2002; Köhler, 2008; Koch et al., 2011).