**Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.**

Lynch, J.F. and D.B. Wake. 1998. *Pseudoeurycea saltator.*

## *Pseudoeurycea saltator* Lynch and Wake

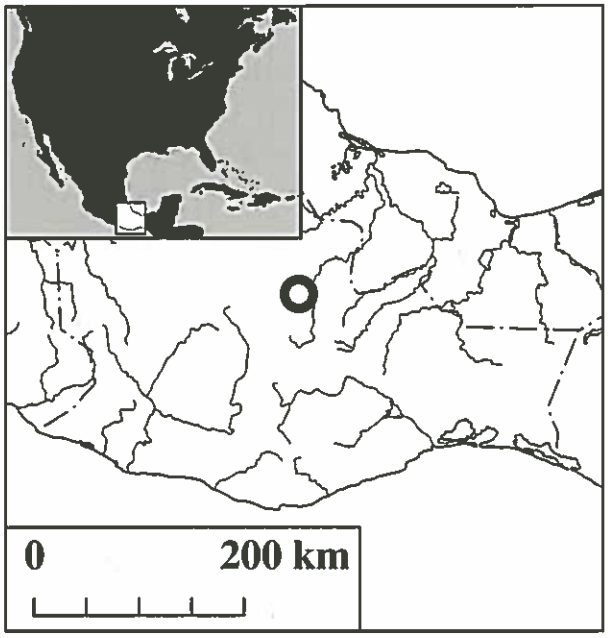
*Pseudoeurycea saltator* Lynch and Wake 1989:11. Type locality, "just west of highway 175,16 km (by road) S Vista Hermosa, Oaxaca, Mexico (1,970 m)." Holotype, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ) 131102, an adult male, collected 21 November 1974 by D.B. Wake, J.F. Lynch, and T.J. Papenfuss.

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **DEFINITION.** *Pseudoeurycea saltator* is one of the smallest species in the genus (maximum SVL = 48 mm). Adults projected to a mean SVL = 45 mm have relatively long limbs (length of hind limb + forelimb/SVL = 0.57) and tail (TL/SVL = 1.05), and have an average of 88 maxillary/premaxillary teeth and 28 vomerine teeth. Hands and feet are relatively large, and their morphology is typical for the genus. The sexes overlap broadly in size and body proportions, but females reach a somewhat larger maximum size (SVL = 48 mm versus 45 mm for males). Marked ontogenetic variation occurs in most proportional and meristic characters, with juveniles possessing relatively shorter tails and limbs, and fewer maxillary/premaxillary and vomerine teeth.

The color pattern of *P. saltator* features a dark gray body color (paler ventrally) overlain by a pale middorsal stripe that consists of dense iridophores. In living specimens the color of the middorsal stripe ranges from pale cream through various shades of tan or pale yellow, and tends to be lighter posteriorly. All adults and subadults have a conspicuous white or cream-colored tail tip. The pale gray ventral surface is flecked with small white iridophores that tend to be larger in the lateral, chin, and tail regions than on the belly.

• **DIAGNOSIS.** The only species of *Pseudoeurycea* that superficially resembles *P. saltator* is *P. parva*, a diminutive arboreal species that occurs at Cerro Baul, just west of the Oaxaca-Chiapas state border. Compared with adults of *P. parva*, adult *P. saltator* are larger (median adult SVL 44 mm versus 39 mm), and have a slightly longer tail (TL/SVL = 1.02 versus 0.93) and fewer vomerine teeth (28 versus 50). The two species also differ in coloration and exhibit profound genetic differentiation (Lynch and Wake 1989).




**MAP.** Distribution of *Pseudoeurycea saltator.* The circle represents the type locality and other nearby localities.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Lynch and Wake (1989) gave a detailed description of external morphology and osteology, and presented comparative electrophoretic data for this and seven other species of *Pseudoeurycea*, plus *Dendrotriton*, *Nyctanolis*, and *Ixalotriton*.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Lynch and Wake (1989) presented a photograph of a living adult paratype and drawings of a cleared-and-stained hand and foot of a paratype.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Pseudoeurycea saltator* has been collected at elevations ranging from 1,580–2,050 m at several localities along Mexican Highway 175, 2–16 km south of the village of Vista Hermosa, Oaxaca. All localities are in very wet montane forest on the north-facing (i.e., Caribbean) slope of the Sierra

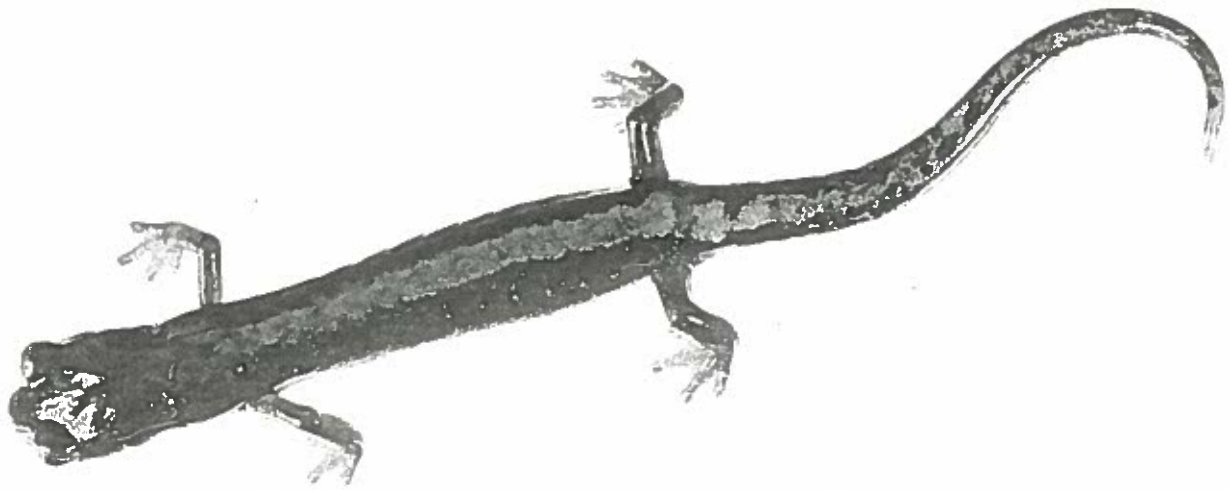


**FIGURE.** Adult *Pseudoeurycea saltator*, topotype.

de Juárez. The primary microhabit is arboreal bromeliads, but a few individuals have been collected under the loose bark of downed logs. Suitable habitat for the species occurs on forested ridges of the Sierra de Juárez east and west of Highway 175. Sympatric salamander species include *Pseudoeurycea juarezi*, *Nototriton adelos*, *Thorius arboreus*, *T. insperatus*, *T. aureus*, an undescribed *Bolitoglossa* in the *rufescens* group, and an undescribed species of *Chiropterotriton* (Darda 1994).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Morphology, distribution, and relationships were discussed in Lynch and Wake (1989). Wake et al. (1992) presented a diagrammatic cross-section of the Sierra de Juárez, showing the elevational distributions of *P. saltator* and other local salamander species.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific name *saltator is* Latin for "leaper" or "dancer," and refers to the unusual ability of this species to move rapidly and to jump when attempting to avoid capture.

• **COMMENT.** Based on electrophoretic comparisons (Lynch and Wake 1989), this species and its presumed closest relative *P. parva* are only distantly related to other species of *Pseudoeurycea*, and appear to share distant relationships with the genera *Dendrotriton*, *Nyctanolis*, and *Ixalotriton*. However, no comparisons were made to the neighboring *P. juarezi*, which is a likely close relative.

## LITERATURE CITED

Darda, D. 1994. Allozyme variation and morphological evolution among Mexican salamanders of the genus *Chiropterotriton* (Caudata: Plethodontidae). Herpetologica 50:164–187.

Lynch, J.F. and D.B. Wake. 1989. Two new species of *Pseudoeurycea* (Amphibia: Caudata) from Oaxaca, Mexico. Contrib. Sci. Nat. Hist. Mus. Los Angeles Co.(411):11–22.

Wake, D.B., T.J. Papenfuss, and J.F. Lynch. 1992. Distribution of salamanders along elevational transects in Mexico and Guatemala. Tulane Stud. Zool. Bot., Suppl. Publ. (1):303–319.

**JAMES F. LYNCH**, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD 21037, USA (deceased), and **DAVID B. WAKE**, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA.

Primary editor for this account, Harold A. Dundee

Published 30 November 1998 and Copyright © 1998 by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.