AMPHIBIA: CAUDATA: PLETHODONTIDAE

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.


• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION. Pseudoeryce salta tor 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 = 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. 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. salta to 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 Pseudoeryce that superficially resembles P. salta to is P. parva, a diminutive arbo real species that occurs at Cerro Baul, just west of the Oaxacachiapas state border. Compared with adults of P. parva, adult P. salta to 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 dif

MAP. Distribution of Pseudoeryce salta to. 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 Pseudoeryce, plus Dendrotron, Nyctanolis, and Ixalotriton.

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

• DISTRIBUTION. Pseudoeryce salta to 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 Pseudoeryce salta to, topotype.
de Juárez. The primary microhabitat 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 Pseudoeyrycea juarezi, Novitrix adelas, Thorius arboreus, T. insperatus, T. aureus, an undescribed Bolitoglossa in the nufescens 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 Pseudoeyrycea, and appear to share distant relationships with the genera Dendrotroton, Nectrandis, and Laxatriton. However, no comparisons were made to the neighboring P. juarezi, which is a likely close relative.

**LITERATURE CITED**


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