

A new record of *Phyllodactylus sentosus* (Dixon & Huey, 1970) (Squamata: Phyllodactylidae) for the coastal desert of Peru

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Locality.— Peru, Department of Lima, Municipality of El Agustino, La Atarjea (Sedapal) (12° 1' 19.31" S; 76° 55' 2.24" W). Collection data: 7 July 2011, Collector: José Pérez Z. Deposited in the herpetological collection of the Museum of Natural History (MUSM), National University of San Marcos. MUSM 31335, subadult (snout-vent length: 41.1 mm, tail length: 13.4 mm.)

Comments.— Distribution of the critically endangered gecko *Phyllodactylus sentosus* is restricted to the city of Lima, Perú; where it is known from just five small populations (Dixon and Huey, 1970; Icochea and Cossios, 2006; Pérez, 2009). The natural habitat of this gecko is Coastal Desert in areas with substrate dry soil or sand with some rocks and without vegetation. Currently this kind of habitat is restricted to a few localities in the city of Lima. *Phyllodactylus sentosus* has a low reproductive rate (Dixon & Huey, 1970) and poor dispersal ability. These characteristics, coupled with negative impacts from human activities in the city of Lima, have resulted in the severe destruction of their habitats (Icochea, 1998), greatly reducing the chances of the persistence of *P. sentosus*. Consequently, *P. sentosus* is the only coastal reptile identified as Critically Endangered in the current Peruvian Wildlife Red List from the National Institute of Natural Resources of Ministry of Agriculture INRENA (Supreme Decree No. 034-2004-AG).

This new record for the city of Lima extends the distribution of *P. sentosus* 4.5 km (straight line) to the northeast. An unvouchered juvenile was also recorded at this locality in February 2007 (José Pérez, pers. observ.). These two records confirm the presence of the species in the area. Despite the relatively small distance of this new record from the

town of Puruchuco—the closest known population (Icochea and Cossios, 2006)—we consider this new record to be a distinct population because there are effective barriers (runways, buildings, etc.) that likely prevent individuals from dispersing between the localities. Documenting this new population is important because of the few known remaining populations of *P. sentosus* and the serious threats that this species faces.

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