

## NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

### Reptilia, Squamata, Colubridae, *Lygophis meridionalis*: Type locality

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*Lygophis meridionalis* is a terrestrial colubrid snake (Ceï 1993) that is mainly associated with lentic body water edges (Leynaud and Bucher 1999); and is distributed from central and south-east Brazil and Bolivia, to north-east Argentina and Paraguay (Giraud and Scrocchi 2002). This species was located in the genus *Liophis*, but recently Zaher et al. (2009) resurrected the genus *Lygophis*. It was described by Schenkel (1901) as *Aporophis lineatus* var. *meridionalis* based upon a male, a female and a couple of juveniles (specimens NMB 1454 to 1457) from Bemalcue, Monte Sociedad, Paraguay. However, despite the importance of the type locality, “Bemalcue, Monte Sociedad” was never plotted in maps nor located specifically (Hoge 1953; Michaud and Dixon 1987; Dixon 1989; Peters and Orejas Miranda 1970). The aim of this contribution is to clarify the specific location of the Type Locality for *Lygophis meridionalis*.

This work was carried out by historical research and revision of historical places in Paraguay. The catalogue data of the Naturhistorisches Museum Basel type material is available online [www.nmb.bs.ch/typenkatalog\_reptilien\_internetversion.xls]. In this catalogue, the specimen NMB 1454 of *L. meridionalis* appears as “Paratype” but there is no published information to support this. Biogeographical data are taken from Dinerstein et al. (1995).

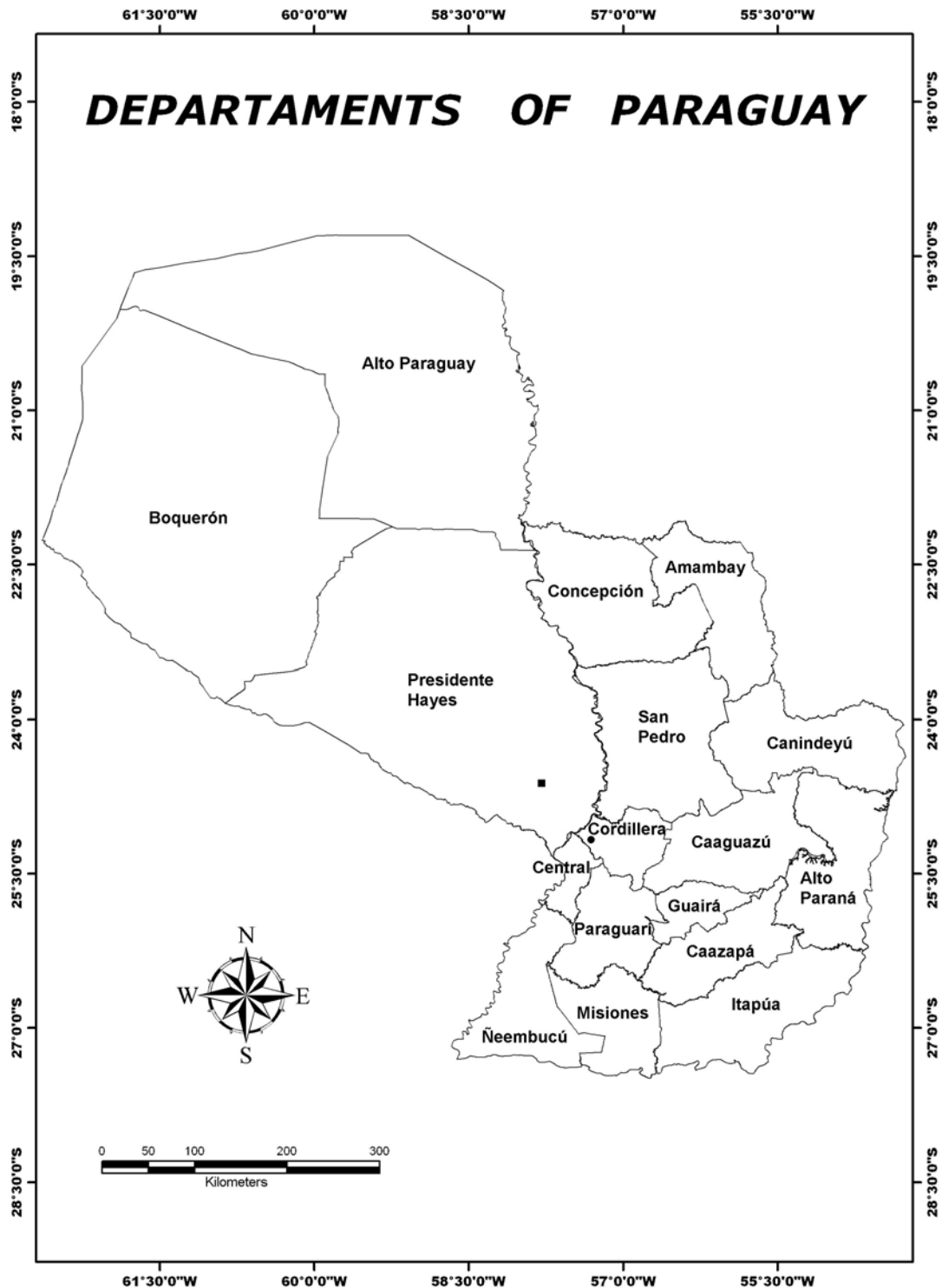
In Paraguay there are no places named “Bemalcue, Monte Sociedad”. Both are different localities that had changed names with time.

By transcription mistake, Schenkel wrote Bemalcue, being actually Bernal Cué. Bernal Cué is a town currently named “Nueva Colombia” located in the Department of Cordillera at 25°11' S, 57°21' W in the east side of Paraguay River. Monte Sociedad is now called “Cerrito” in the Department of Presidente Hayes in the west margin of Paraguay River, at 24°58' S, 57°32' W.

As such, type locality of *Lygophis meridionalis* could be any of both. Nevertheless, all specimens were collected by Carl Ternetz who formed a small collection from Paraguay. Basel Museum bought this collection in 1895. The Basel Museum’s books state that specimens of this collection came from *Mte. Sociedad*. In conclusion, this should be considered the type locality. Other specimens of Ternetz, actually belongs from Bernal Cué (type specimen of *Paroxyrhopus reticulatus*), but not those of *L. meridionalis*.

Cerrito is located in the eco-region of Wet Chaco, characterized by prairies with palm trees (*Copernicia alba*) adapted to periodic floods (Figure 1).

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**Figure 1.** Map of Paraguay showing the localities referred in this work. The circle corresponding to “Colonia Nueva Colombia”, formerly named “Bernal Cué”; and the square represents the proposed type locality for *Liophis meridionalis*: “Monte Sociedad”, actually called “Cerrito”.

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