

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Squamata, Colubridae, *Clelia clelia*: Range extensions and new provincial records from Ecuador.

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Clelia clelia (Daudin, 1803) is probably one of the most familiar snakes among people living in rural areas of the lowlands and foothills of Ecuador, mainly because of its large adult size that may exceed 2 m total length, venomous-snake feeding habits, and its ability to inhabit secondary and altered habitats. Unfortunately little scientific information has been published on the Ecuadorian populations of *C. clelia* and about its distribution in the Andean region. The species is widely distributed in America, ranging from southern Mexico to Panama and South America both on the Pacific (to south-western Peru) and Atlantic versants of the Andes (along the Guyana Shield and the Amazon basin south to central Brazil and Bolivia), and occurring also on several Caribbean islands (Zaher 1996). In Ecuador, *C. clelia* has been reported from both sides of the Andes. In the west, it has been recorded from the provinces of Guayas, Esmeraldas, Los Ríos, Imbabura, Pichincha, Cotopaxi, Bolívar, and Chimborazo. In the eastern (Amazonian) region it is known from the provinces of Loja, Napo, Pastaza, Orellana, Sucumbíos, Tungurahua, and Morona-Santiago (Duellman 1978; Pérez-Santos and Moreno 1991; Zaher 1996).

Here we provide new provincial records extending the known distributional range of *Clelia clelia* in Ecuador, based on specimens deposited in the collections of the Instituto Nacional de Higiene y Medicina Tropical, in Guayaquil (INHMT), and the Fundación Herpetológica Gustavo Orcés, in Quito (FHGO).

A specimen of *Clelia clelia* (INHMT 4060) was collected in Zamora (ca. 04°05' S, 78°55' W; 900–1200 m elevation), in the province of Zamora-Chinchipec, on 26 July 1999 by Hector Apolo. This record provides the first report for Zamora-Chinchipec and for the upper Río Zamora valley.

Another specimen of *Clelia clelia* (FHGO 278) was collected in San Isidro (ca. 00°23' S, 80°10' W; 100 m elevation), in the province of Manabí, on 28 February 1991 by the Principal of the local high school. This record is the first report for Manabí, fills the gap between previous records from the provinces of Guayas and Esmeraldas, and it is the westernmost known locality in the South American distribution of this species.

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