
**First report of the lizard *Phyllodactylus ventralis* (Sauria: Gekkonidae),
from a mangrove in Colombian**

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A study of macrobenthos at South Chengue Lagoon, Tayrona National Nature Park (Colombian Caribbean) revealed a young specimen of *Phyllodactylus ventralis* with samples taken on 3 March 1982 with a Steech - Kasten (1/60 cm₂) dredge. This young specimen from the site (11° 18' 52" - 11° 19' 28" N; 74° 07' 30" - 74° 08' 30" W) was preserved in 5% formalin, it is uniform light brown (head, trunk, tail and legs), and beige under legs and tail. It was deposited in the INDERENA Federico Medem Investigation Unit, in Santa Fe de Bogotá D.C. Colombia (IND - R - 3678; Col. R. Alvarez-León).

Phyllodactylus ventralis is a small lizard that lives in forest and, mangrove trees; it often is observed on house walls, at night or at dusk.

During the day it hides in crevices, door chinks or attics. *P. ventralis*, was described by O'Shaughnessy (1875. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., 16(4):263), from Jamaica, and some authors report it from the dry thorn forest and savannahs of northern Colombia and Venezuela (Peter & Orejas-Miranda 1970. Catalogue of Neotropical Reptilia, Part II Squamata, 297 p.; Dixon and Huey 1970. Los Angeles County Mus. Contr. Sci., 192: 1-78). It was known from earlier work at Bonda (Mercher 1968, Rev. Suisse Zool., 75: 305-371) and on the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Ruthven 1922 Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool., Misc. Publ., 8: 1-169). The discovery confirms its presence in the mangroves of the Colombian Caribbean coast. This individual possibly fell by accident

into the shallow waters of Laguna Sur de Chengue, where it was incorporated into the bottom organic material. It was dead but complete and in good condition except for the tail, which was found 10-16 mm from the rest of the body.

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