

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Squamata, Colubridae, *Liophis sagittifer sagittifer*: Distribution extension

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Liophis sagittifer sagittifer (Jan 1863) is a medium-sized colubrid snake (maximum SVL ~1020 mm) distributed in Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia (Dixon and Thomas 1982; Giraudo and Scrocchi 2002). Is a diurnal terrestrial snake found in Patagonica, Monte and Pampeana phytogeographic provinces that intergrades with *Liophis sagittifer modestus* in Espinal and Chaqueña provinces (Giraudo and Scrocchi 2002). Southernmost record of this species is by Koslowsky (1896), who mention the existence of specimens in Chubut but without any

specific locality. Later, Dixon and Thomas (1982) indicates five records of *L. sagittifer sagittifer* south of province of La Pampa, in central Argentina but all from bibliographic sources. These authors marked a point near the boundaries of provinces of Rio Negro and Chubut at approximately 42° S latitude. According to Cei (1986) the southern distribution limit is *peninsula de Valdes*, in northeastern Chubut. In a recent field guide (Scolaro 2005) the general geographic distribution marked is north of Chubut river.

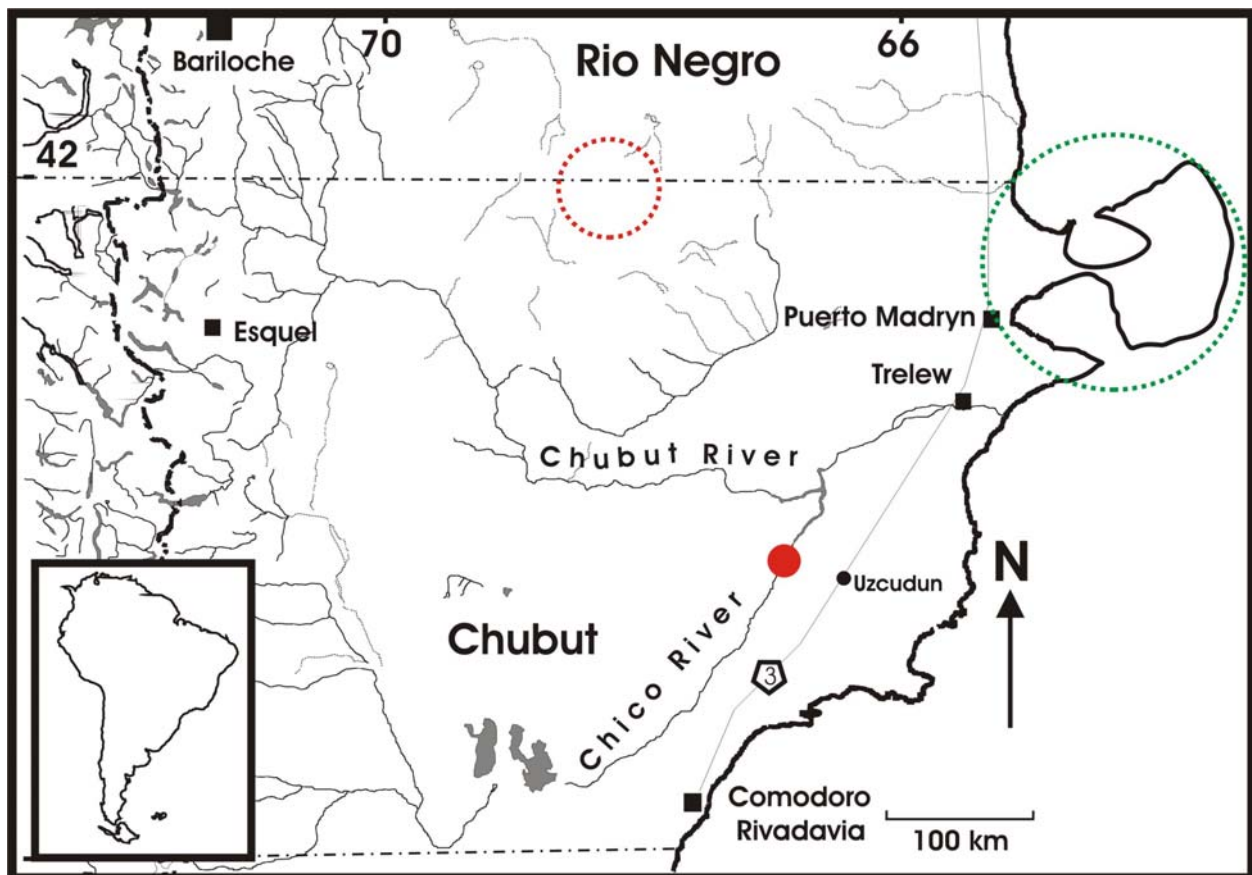


Figure 1: Red dot: new locality for *Liophis sagittifer sagittifer* in Argentina. Green dotted circle: *peninsula de Valdes*. Red dotted circle: Approximate location of the locality cited by Dixon and Thomas (1982). *Ruta Nacional 3*, Uzcudun Post, and main cities in the region are marked as reference.

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We present herein a new record for this species in the province of Chubut (Figure 1), based on a specimen collected alive by J. Pardiñas and U. Pardiñas during a mastozoological field survey carried out on 27 October 2007 near Chico river, on southeast edge, 40 km west of Uzcudun Post by a dirty road (44°05' S, 66°42' W, datum WGS 84), department of Florentino Ameghino. The specimen (Figure 2) was found active near the main stream in a Monte-Patagonian

steppe ecotonal area. Distance from *peninsula de Valdes* is more than 200 km airline, representing the southernmost vouchered record for this species and extending its distribution to central-east province of Chubut. The voucher was deposited in the herpetological collection of the *Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales Bernardino Rivadavia*, Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina, under number MACN 39041.



Figure 2: *Liophis sagittifer sagittifer* from 40 km west of Uzcudun post, near *rio Chico*, department of Florentino Ameghino, province of Chubut, central Patagonia, Argentina. Photo by C. H. F. Perez.

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