

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Pristidactylus alvaroi*, *P. torquatus*, *P. valeriae* and *P. volcanensis* in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Chile.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Reptilia
12. Order: Squamata
13. Family: Polychridae
14. Species: *Pristidactylus alvaroi*
Pristidactylus torquatus
Pristidactylus valeriae
Pristidactylus volcanensis
15. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish: *P. alvaroi* Gruñidor de Alvaro
P. torquatus Gruñidor del sur
P. valeriae Gruñidor de Valeria
P. volcanensis Gruñidor de El Volcan
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

P. alvaroi occurs exclusively at the top of El Roble hill, Chile, being restricted to the forest of *Nothofagus* (Donoso-Barros, 1966).

P. torquatus, has the largest range, from the Sierra de Bellavista (in the cordillera San Fernando), the most northern range area, to the island Grande de Chiloe (Formas, 1979), the most southern point of Chile, and has always existed in the forested areas of Fagáceas (Donoso-Barros, 1966).

P. valeriae, lives only at the top and middle of the hill of Cantillana, Chile, restricted to the forest of *Nothofagus obliqua* (Donoso-Barros, 1966).

P. volcanensis, is the species with the most atypical distribution, similar to that of some Argentine species (Ceí, 1986). It has also the smallest range (six hectares) (Núñez *et al.*,

1992) in the Cajón del Maipo zone, Metropolitan region (Lambrot y Díaz, 1987), a xeromorphic area situated 50 km east of Santiago. This is the only species on which biological studies have been made, which describe it as being insectivorous, saxicolous and of monomodal activity.

The genus (in Chile) is highly specialized and according to some authors (Núñez y Jaksic, 1992) it should be considered as a subgenus, which gives to the Chilean species an endemic value.

The species are morphologically characterized by their robustness, with a large throat fold, strong mandibles, flat and granulate scales, in addition to wide scales on the fingers.

- 22. Population: No population estimates exist for any of these species.
- 23. Habitat: All these species (with the exception of *P. volcanensis*) are strongly associated with the fagaceous forest and occur only above an altitude of 500 m.

Pristidactylus volcanensis occurs in dry areas of the locality of El Volcán at an altitude of 1,416 m, in the Metropolitan region of Chile, in an environment with bushes of medium size. It develops monomodal activities between 10.00 and 15.00 hours, generally using rocks under the shadow of bushes as a perch. In front of predators, it opens its mouth and produces a coarse and prolonged sound. This species, like all in the genus, has a body temperature during activity (28° C) significantly lower than that of most other Chilean reptiles (Antonieta Labra, pers. comm.).

The main food items are insects, beetles in particular.

3. Trade Data

- 31. National Utilization: There is no use of this genus at the national level. There are networks (although not operational) of people who capture these species to supply the international market. In the following table there are estimates of the international trade in reptiles from Chile to European countries and the United States for the period 1985-1992. Because of the difficulties in identifying the specimens exported from the various ports of exit, it is not possible to quantify the real number of specimens of *Pristidactylus* exported. Specimens of species of the genus *Pristidactylus* may have been exported in some of the following categories: "small lizard, lizard (caiman), iguana or matuastos"; all of them represent a total of 1,737,521 specimens exported from 1985 to March 1993. With the publication of a new regulation, on 9 March 1993, the export of all reptile and amphibian species from Chile was prohibited.

NUMBER OF REPTILE SPECIMENS LEGALLY EXPORTED FROM CHILE DURING THE PERIOD 1985-1993

Source: Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (1993)

YEAR	SMALL LIZARDS	LIZARDS	IGUANAS	TURTLES	SNAKES	MATUASTOS	TOTAL
1985	2,385	782	376	0	5	0	3,548
1986	13,170	5,681	1,371	0	300	0	20,522
1987	47,041	12,088	4,317	10,000	400	0	73,846
1988	56,042	11,140	3,947	0	647	160	71,936
1989	116,129	9,735	4,611	900	740	45	132,160
1990	283,818	28,239	5,936	0	861	0	318,854

1991	319,326	28,921	7,746	0	452	0	356,445
1992	512,778	79,916	18,112	0	35	589	611,430
1993	135,439	9,500	3,837	0	4	0	148,780
TOTAL	1,486,128	186,002	50,253	10,900	3,444	794	1,737,521

32. Legal International Trade: At present, the capture or keeping is not allowed.

33. Illegal Trade: There is no information on this issue. There might exist a network of illegal exporters from Chile. This is because controls are closer on entry into than on departure from the country.

34. Potential Trade Threats

341. Live Specimens: The trade in live animals is currently non-existent. In the past there was a heavy pressure on all representatives of the genus and the populations decreased almost to extinction, as was the case for the species *P. valeriae* (Juan Sufán, pers. comm.).

342. Parts and Derivatives: There is no information on this issue.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The regulation of the Hunting Law (no. 4.601) in Article II states that all vertebrate species from Chile are protected by a conservation hunting law for 20 years.

5. Information on Similar Species

In Argentina there is a group of associated lizards (Ceí, 1986).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

These are species which (as a subgenus) range in Chile only.

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

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Conaf, Glade A. Libro Rojo de los Vertebrados Terrestres de Chile, 1988.

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