Hispaniolan Giant Diploglossus (Sauria: Anguidae): Description of a New Species and Notes on the Ecology of D. warreni

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Abstract. A third giant species of Diploglossus, D. carraui, is described from north-central República Dominicana. Comparisons between this species and D. warreni from Haiti and D. anelpistus from south-central República Dominicana are made. The taxonomic status of the three named populations is discussed, and alternative arrangements are noted.

Diploglossus warreni is viviparous, and gives birth in July-August (wet season). Number of young (8-27) is positively correlated with female body size, but mean size of young is not correlated with litter size. D. warreni takes a wide variety of prey species (including other lizards) but, in terms of prey volume, centipedes (Scolopendra) and millipedes (Rhinocricidae) predominate.

The genus Diploglossus Wiegmann (sensu Strahm & Schwartz, 1977) was only recently discovered (1968) to occur on Hispaniola, even though there had been a specimen in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., collected in northern Haiti in 1917. The northern Haitian population, which also occurs on Ile de la Tortue, was named D. warreni by Schwartz (1970). A second giant species was discovered in San Cristóbal Province, República Dominicana and was named D. anelpistus by Schwartz, Graham, and Duval (1979). These two species, although similar in many ways, are distinctly different in coloration and pattern, and to some extent in scutellation. The two species are separated by a distance of about 300 km, and their known ranges are separated by the Dominican Cordillera Central and its Haitian affiliate, the Massif du Nord. It has seemed likely, with the discovery of the isolated population of D. anelpistus, that other populations of Diploglossus would be discovered. In fact, Schwartz et al. (1979) noted a specimen of the genus from Comedero, Puerto Plata Province, República Dominicana, some 200 km NNE of the known range of D. anelpistus, but they did not assign it to the latter taxon.

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Since that time, two additional specimens from the northern República Dominicana have been brought to the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in Santo Domingo; thus, there are now three adults (all males) from three different northern Dominican localities. These differ from both Haitian *D. warreni* and southern Dominican *D. anelpistus*, and represent still another taxon. We name it here as a full species, although acknowledging that it is intermediate in some ways between the two previously named species, in honor of Dr. José Antonio Carrau who took the first specimen, as

*Diploglossus carraui* sp. n.

**Holotype.** National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 197369, an adult male, from Comedero, La Isabela, Puerto Plata Province, República Dominicana, May 1978, collected by Niño Gómez and presented by José Antonio Carrau.

**Paratypes.** Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Santo Domingo (MNHNSD), between Salcedo and Tenares, Salcedo Province, República Dominicana, brought to museum by Bienvenido López Dulance and collected by Plinio, on 5 May 1980; MNHNSD, Pozo Prieto, Valverde Province, República Dominicana, 8 May 1980, collected by native.

**Definition.** A species of *Diploglossus* characterized by: 1) large size (snout-vent length to 283 mm in males; females unknown); 2) throat and venter pale creamy with scattered dark brown markings, either toward the centers of ventral scales or along their edges, the markings randomly placed in each individual; 3) head scales not outlined in black; 4) nuchal scales posterior to enlarged head scales without dark pigment along median sutures so that neck region is not obviously lineate; 5) supralabial intercalated scales absent.

**Description of holotype.** An adult male with a snout-vent length of 270 mm and tail length (apparently not regenerated) of 225 mm; dorsum (as preserved) pale creamy tan with random dark brown smudges extending as far as the occiput; neck more or less solid dark brown and without lineate pattern; dorsum medium brown; a series of 15 dark brown bands, each about 4 scales wide, from just behind the auricular opening to the groin, plus two additional bands postsacrally, these bands extending ventrally and maintaining their integrity along the sides to an imaginary line between the lower edges of the fore- and hindlimb insertions, the ground color of the sides paler tan so that the lateral "bars" (= lateral extensions of the dorsal crossbands) are more prominent than the dorsal crossbars but are also narrower, usually involving 2 scales; entire venter cream and blotched with very dark brown, giving a more or less semi-lineate effect but not comparable to the completely dark brown venter in *D. anelpistus*; scales of anal flap almost completely dark brown; chin and throat similar to venter except that the dark markings are smaller and somewhat more closely placed to give an almost