

## First record of the Cuban Many-ringed Wormlizard, *Amphisbaena barboursi* (Squamata: Amphisbaenidae), from an offshore cay

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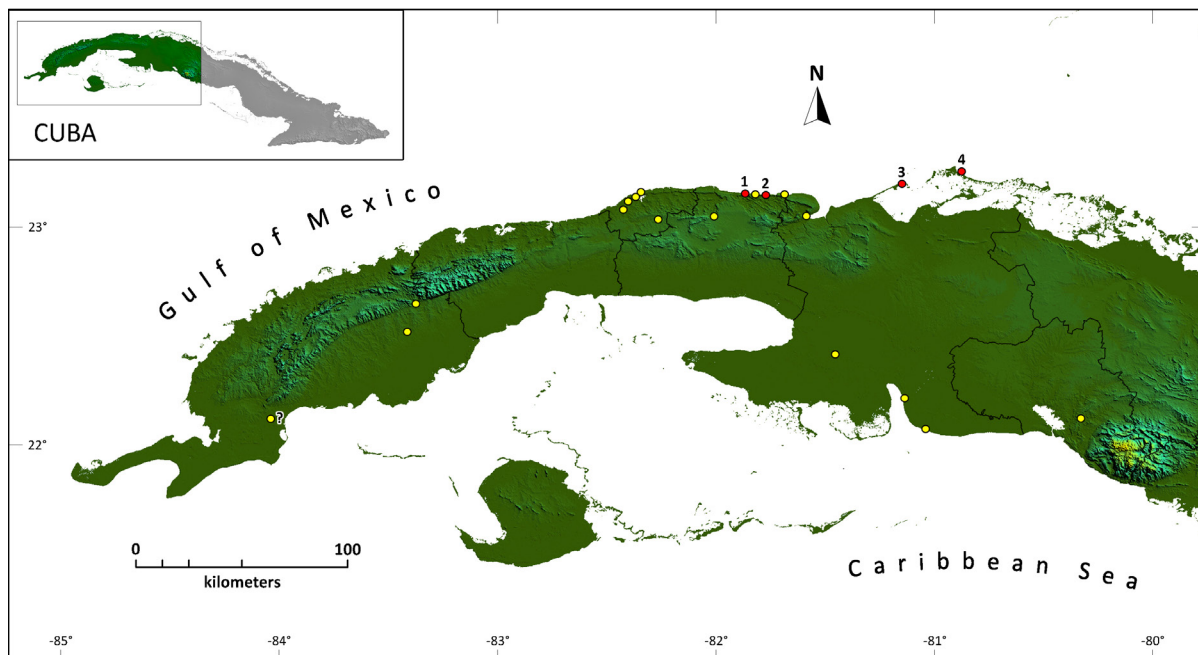
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*Amphisbaena barboursi* Gans and Alexander, 1962 is a Cuban endemic distributed in the western half of the main island (Rodríguez et al. 2013). This species has been reported at about 15 sites from Pinar del Río to Cienfuegos provinces (Rodríguez et al. 2013; iNaturalist 2020; Fig. 1).

On 10 August 2017 we found an adult *A. barboursi* (173 mm SVL, 14 mm tail length; Fig. 2) near the biological station at Cayo Galindo (23.2547, -80.8725; 1 m a.s.l.; point 4 in Fig. 1). This key is located towards the westernmost end of the Archipiélago de Sabana-Camagüey cay system, in Martí Municipality, Matanzas Province (Fig. 1). This finding constitutes the first record of the species from an offshore cay. It also represents the northernmost record, just 4 km southeast of the northernmost point of the Cuban archipelago (i.e., Cayo Cruz del Padre). The distribution of *A. barboursi* is now extended about 75 km east-northeast of Matanzas, the nearest published record (Gans & Alexander 1962).



**Figure 1.** Distribution of *Amphisbaena barboursi*, including records from the literature (yellow dots) and this paper (red dots). Locality numbers in the text. The question mark (?) represents a published record that needs confirmation (i.e., “San Ubaldo-Sabanalamar” Flora Reserve; Rodríguez et al. 2013).

The individual was collected by day under a coralline rock in dry, thorny shrubwood on limestone, at about 30 m from the shoreline. It had 230 body annuli, 17 caudal annuli, 4 precloacals, 13 dorsal midbody segments, and 18 ventral midbody segments, diagnostic of *A. barbouri* (Gans & Alexander 1962; Thomas & Hedges 1998). The coloration in life was medium brown (Fig. 2). The voucher specimen is deposited in the zoological collection of the Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, La Habana, Cuba (CZACC 4.13101).

Other new locality records from this work are indicated by numbers in Fig. 1. MAYABEQUE Province. Santa Cruz del Norte Municipality: (1) Peñón del Fraile (23.1487, -81.8650) and (2) Loma de Canasí (23.1443, -81.7735). MATANZAS Province. Varadero Municipality: (3) "Varahicacos" Protected Landscape (23.1961, -81.1552).



**Figure 2.** *Amphisbaena barbouri* from Cayo Galindo, the first offshore record of the species. Scale bar in millimeters. Photo by E. Morell Savall.

The westernmost record of *Amphisbaena barbouri* at "San Ubaldo-Sabanalamar" Flora Reserve is based on the species list of an unpublished action plan of the area (Rodríguez et al. 2013; question mark in Fig. 1). Identification of amphisbaenian species requires scale counts (Gans & Alexander 1962; Thomas & Hedges 1998). This and other records referred to *A. cubana*, a similar species occurring in the same region, might be misidentifications that require confirmation (Schwartz & Henderson 1991).

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