

by Joseph L. LaPointe. New Mexico State University (NMSU 6618). Because this species is often encountered in the riparian woodland near Portal in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona (McDiarmid 1977, Cat. American Amphib. Rept. 198.1–198.2), its presence in similar habitat in New Mexico is not unexpected.

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GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Three Species New To The Herpetofauna Of New Mexico

While no comprehensive up-to-date treatment of the herpetofauna of New Mexico exists, work is currently underway to compile that information (Degenhardt, Painter, and Price, in prep.). This accelerated interest in the distribution of New Mexico's amphibians and reptiles led to recent collections that have yielded three species new to the herpetofauna of New Mexico.

HEMIDACTYLUS TURCICUS (Mediterranean Gecko). Doña Ana Co: Las Cruces, trailer court on Stearn Drive, ca. 4 km S jct El Paseo Drive. 10 September 1991. John Waters. Verified by Geoff C. Carpenter. New Mexico State University (NMSU 6612). Numerous specimens have been collected at the above and nearby localities. All collection sites have been associated with human dwellings. The establishment of a population of *H. turcicus* in Las Cruces is not surprising, as a population has been known to exist in El Paso, Texas, for almost ten years (Selcer 1986, Copeia 1986(4):956–962; R. G. Webb, pers. comm., UTEP 9539).

LAMPROPELTIS ALTERNA (Gray-banded Kingsnake). Eddy Co: Carlsbad Caverns National Park. DOR on New Mex. Rt. 7. 15 June 1991. Gary & Shane Swinford. Verified by W. G. Degenhardt. University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB 52000). The occurrence of this secretive species in adjacent Texas is well documented and its presence in southeastern New Mexico (Guadalupe Mountains) is not unexpected (Gehlbach 1967, Cat. American Amphib. Rept. 55.1–55.2). This specimen was collected under the authority of a Carlsbad Caverns National Park scientific collection permit and will be considered for listing as state-endangered by the New Mexico State Game Commission. Unconfirmed sight records exist for this species in the western foothills of the Guadalupe Mountains and on Otero Mesa.

TANTILLA YAQUIA (Yaquia Blackhead Snake). Hidalgo Co: Peloncillo Mountains, Skeleton Canyon, ca. 27.4 km S Rodeo, Sec 24, T31S, R22W. 25 August 1991. Paul W. Hyder. Verified