

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Liner, E.A. 1998. *Chiropterotriton priscus*.

***Chiropterotriton priscus* Rabb**

*Chiropterotriton prisca* Rabb 1956:11. Type locality, "elevation of 8,000 feet [2438 m] on Cerro Potosí, near Ojo de Agua, about eleven miles [17.7 km] west-northwest of Galeana, Nuevo León, México." Holotype, FMNH 9599, adult female, collected 16 August 1938 by E.J. Koestner (not examined by author); paratypes: FMNH 30625 (18) and UMMZ 112317–8, same data as type; FMNH 30619, 30620 (5), 30621–2, and UMMZ 112316 from Ojo de Agua, Cerro Potosí, collected by Harry Hoogstraal, 24 July 1938; FMHM 30623–4, from the same locality by E.J. Koestner, 16 August 1938; FMNH 30626 (10) and UMMZ 112319, from near the same location, altitude 12,000 ft. (3658 m) by Harry Hoogstraal, 21 July 1938.

*Chiropterotriton priscus*: Rabb 1958:2. Emended for gender agreement.

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** *Chiropterotriton priscus* has a robust body, relatively short legs, and slight dimorphism in maxillary-premaxillary tooth counts. Adults measure 37–50 mm SVL, have 3–4 costal spaces between adpressed limbs, and 33–44 teeth in adult males, 42–53 in adult females (Rabb 1956). Trunk vertebrae number 14. Septomaxillary bones are well developed (Wake and Lynch 1976). Coloration is usually nondescript, being various shades of tan-brown to black. Some individuals have small spots or streaks, especially on the tail, and a few have larger whitish blotches, especially in smaller individuals. The venter is lighter than the dorsum and mostly cream colored (Rabb 1956; pers. obs.).

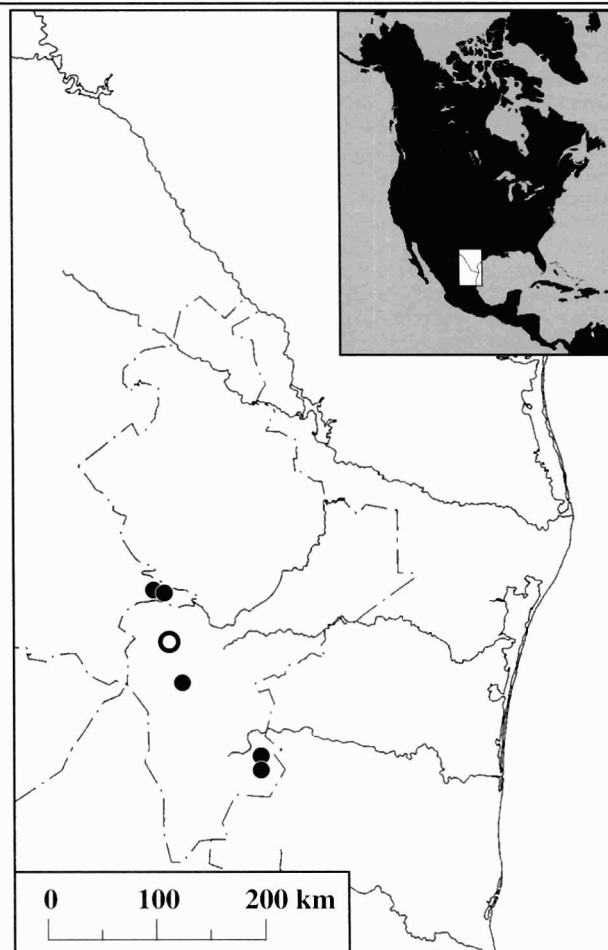
• **Diagnosis.** *Chiropterotriton priscus* is unlike any other species in the genus in external appearance. The robust body and relatively short limbs belie its relationship with other members of the genus (Rabb 1956, 1958; Darda 1994). *Chiropterotriton priscus* is genetically and morphologically distinct and thus is adequately well differentiated to justify it as a full species (Darda 1994).

• **Descriptions.** A full description is in Rabb (1956).

• **Illustrations.** A drawing was included by Rabb (1956).

• **Distribution.** This species is known from the Sierra Madre Oriental of Coahuila and Nuevo León, México. Morafka (1977) listed *C. priscus* as possibly being a part of the Chihuahuan Desert herpetofauna. *Chiropterotriton priscus* is considered to be terrestrial and is generally found under ground litter, logs, bark of fallen trees, or stones (Rabb 1956; pers. obs.). On Peña Nevada, specimens were found at night heading upward at 1.5–1.8 m on upright tree trunks.

• **Fossil Record.** None.



**Map.** Distribution of *Chiropterotriton priscus*. The circle represents the type locality, dots mark other records.



**Figures.** *Chiropterotriton priscus* from 11 mi (17.7 km) SW Zaragoza at La Encantada (EAL 4781, bottom) and 10.2 mi (16.5 km) SW Zaragoza, 0.9 mi (1.4 km) NE La Encantada (EAL 4824, top), Nuevo León, México.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Rabb's (1956) original description is the only comprehensive work on the species. Other literature is as follows: albumin (Maxson and Wake 1981), allozymes (Darda 1994), anatomy (Hanken 1983), bionumeric code (Brame et al. 1978), checklists (Brame 1957, 1967; Flores-Villela 1993; Frank and Ramus 1995; Frost 1985; Gorham 1967; Harding 1983; Smith and Taylor 1966; Sokolov 1988; Liner 1996), common names (Frank and Ramus 1995, Liner 1996, Sokolov 1988), conservation (Flores-Villela and Gerez 1988, 1994; Sierra 1994), diagnostic characters (Wake and Elias 1983), distribution (Chaney et al. 1982, Liner et al. 1976, Rabb 1956), evolution (Darda 1994, Hanken 1983, Maxon and Wake 1981, Wake and Lynch 1976), faunal associates (Liner and Dixon 1992, Rossman et al. 1989), habitat (Morafka 1977, Rabb 1956, Rossman et al. 1989, Wake and Lynch 1976), literature listings (Smith and Smith 1976, 1993), reproduction (Rabb 1956), and systematics (Maxson and Wake 1981, Rabb 1956, Wake and Elias 1983, Wake and Lynch 1976).

• **Remarks.** Wake (1966) considered *C. priscus* to be a primitive form intermediate between *Chiropterotriton* and the *Pseudoeurycea cephalica* species group and placed it in the tribe Bolitoglossini. Wake and Lynch (1976) formally placed *priscus* in the alpha as opposed to the beta group of *Chiropterotriton*. Maxson and Wake (1981) showed that *priscus* was closely related to *C. multidentatus* (IDU=26) but remote from *P. cephalica* (IDU=74) and belonged to a *priscus* group within the alpha group. Wake and Elias (1983) retained the alpha group of *Chiropterotriton*, which contains *priscus*, and reallocated members of the beta group to new genera.

• **Etymology.** The generic name is derived from the Greek word *scheir*, meaning hand, *pteron*, meaning feather, wing, or fin, and *triton*, referring to a sea god. The specific epithet is derived from the Latin *priscus*, meaning ancient. No basis for such a combination of terms is understood.

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