

# *Teius suquiensis*: expansion of its geographical distribution and first record for the pampean eco-region (southern Santa Fe province, Argentina)

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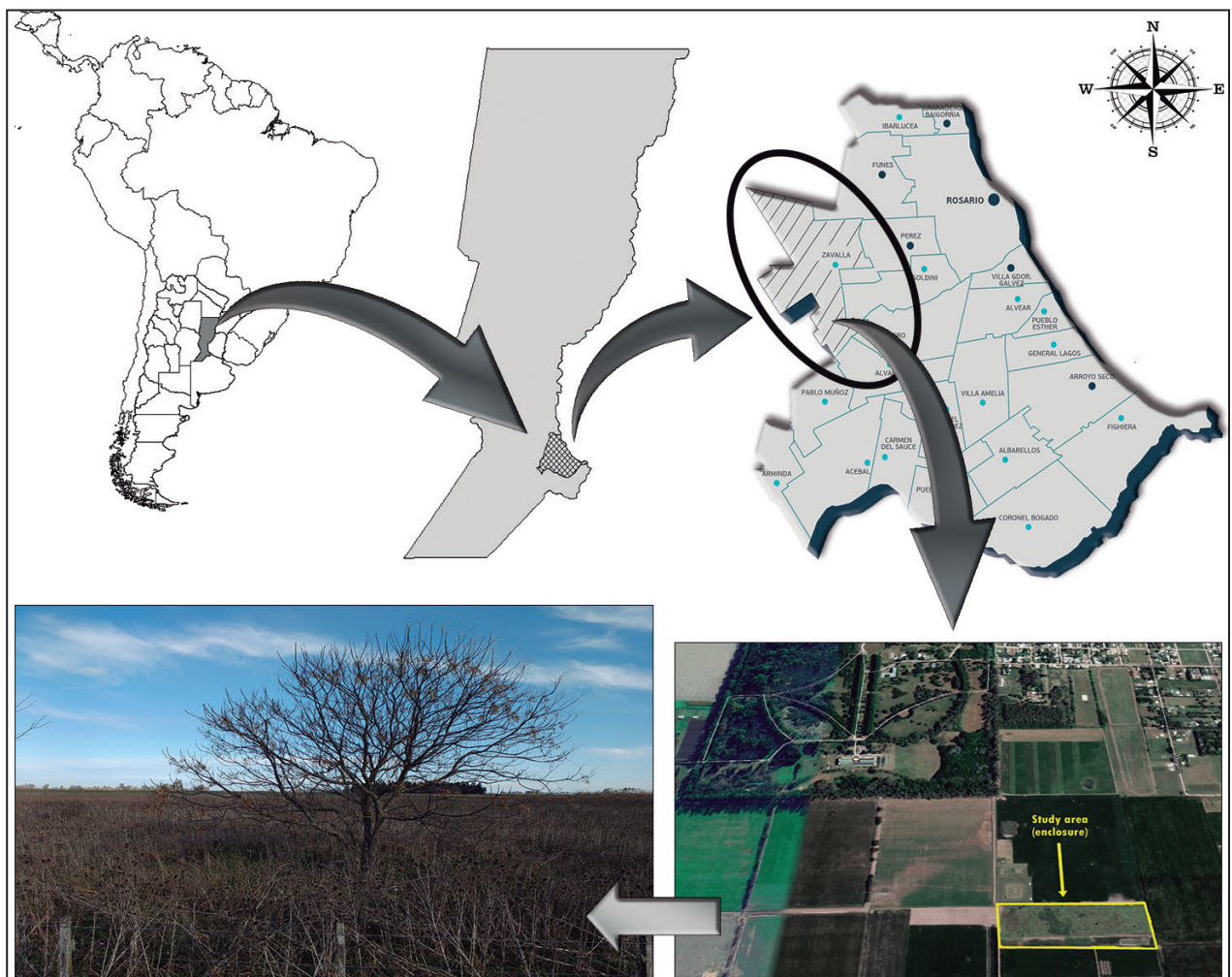
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*Locality*— Argentina, Santa Fe, Departamento de Rosario, Comuna de Zavalla (33°02'13"S; 60°53'03"W, WGS84, 41 m s.n.m.). Fecha de colecta: 11 de Marzo de 2018. Collected by Cecilia Grierson and Pablo Rimoldi. We found this specimen of *Teius suquiensis* in the Experimental Field Station which belongs to

the Agricultural Science College of the National University of Rosario (UNR), (Fig. 1).

The collected specimen, a juvenile one, is kept in the Zoological Collection of the Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias (FCA-ZV-R: 012, Fig.2).



**Figure 1.** Habitat at the new record locality of *Teius suquiensis* in Zavalla, southern Santa Fe province, Argentina.

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**Figure 2.** The collected specimen of *Teius suquiensis* from Zavalla (FCA-ZV-R: 012).

*Comments*— The genus *Teius* Merrem, 1820 at present includes three species: *Teius teyou* (Daudin, 1802); *T. oculatus* (D'Orbigny & Bibron, 1837), and *T. suquiensis* Avila & Martori, 1991. The latter is the only species in the genus that is known to have parthenogenetic reproduction in Argentina (Avila *et al.*, 1992). Some recent studies on its distribution (Cacciali *et al.*, 2016) limit its presence to two disjunct areas: one in the north-west corner of Santa Fe province and the other in the center, north and west of Córdoba province, extending into the north-eastern San Luis province. From the biogeographic point of view, the species occurs on the southern border of the Wet Chaco, being more abundant in the

Dry Chaco and less frequently in the Espinal. New records introduced by Céspedes *et al.* (2017) mention *T. suquiensis* in Santiago del Estero province, 100 km to the north of the northern most locality with known records in the Córdoba province (Cabrera and Monguillot, 2007), which could be a sign of a possible expansion in its distribution area.

The aim of this contribution is to present the first record of *T. suquiensis* for a Pampean agricultural-ecosystem placed in southern Santa Fe province. The capture of this specimen took place when a survey study of local herpetofauna was being carried on. The study area is a three-hectare permanent enclosure, which has been closed to major herbivorous since

1983, covered at present by a continuous tall grass layer with a dominance of Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*) together with common thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*) (Fig. 1). There are also two smaller areas within the enclosure, one covered with chilca (*Baccharis punctulata*) bushes and the other with ferns (*Adiantopsis chlorophylla*) (Boccanelli, 2011).

It is important to highlight that the nearest locality to the new record of *T. suquiensis* is Villa Maria, in Córdoba province (Cacciali *et al.*, 2016). With this new finding, the distribution of the species is extended approximately 230 km to the south-east, thus establishing the first record for the Pampean eco-region.

According to Avila and Martori (1991), *T. suquiensis* seems to tolerate the environmental modifications inherent to highly disturbed habitats. However, due to the lack of records between these localities, it is not possible to determine if this new record represents a recent expansion of this species, or a well-established occurrence that was simply unknown due to the lack of information.

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