

VANZOSAURA RUBRICAUDA (Red-tailed Vanzosaur). BIFURCATION AND TRIFURCATION. *Vanzosaura rubricauda* is a small microteiid lizard (Gymnophthalmidae) with a longitudinally striped body and brightly colored, red tail. It uses caudal autotomy as a means of predation avoidance; a strategy widely utilised by most lizards (Fitch 2003. *J. Herpetol.* 37:395–399; Pafilis et al. 2009. *Evolution* 63:1262–1278). Bifurcation is recognized as being the result of injury and not caused by deformity (Lynn 1950. *Herpetologica* 6:81–84). On occasion when the original tail is damaged during a predation event, but not completely severed, bifurcation, or more rarely trifurcation, can occur (Conzendey et al. 2013. *Herpetol. Rev.* 44:145–146; Gogliath et al. 2012. *Herpetol. Rev.* 43:129; Kumbar et al. 2011.

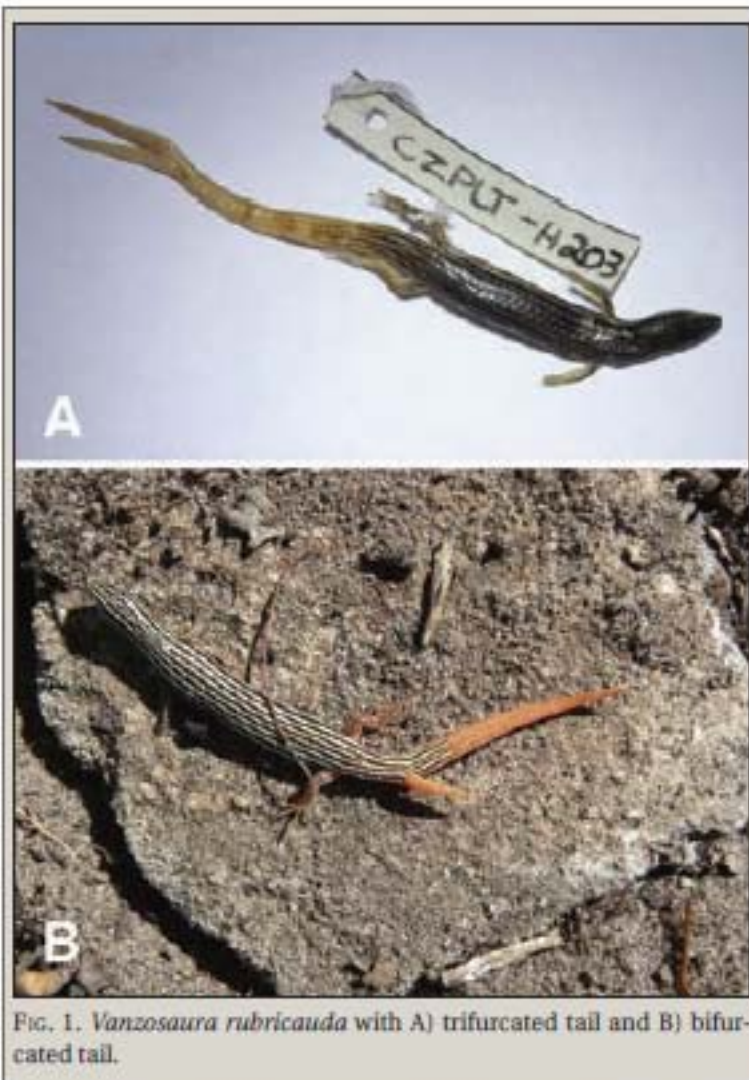


FIG. 1. *Vanzosaura rubricauda* with A) trifurcated tail and B) bifurcated tail.

Herpetol. Rev. 42:94; Tamar et al. 2013, Herpetol. Rev. 44:135–136; Tamar et al. 44:146). Adult *V. rubricauda* with abnormal tails were collected on 6 September 2011 and 2 May 2013 in pitfall trap lines at Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca, San Pedro Department, Paraguay (23.816194°S, 56.292833°W; 203 m elev.) and deposited in the Colección Zoológica de Para La Tierra as CZPLT 203 and CZPLT 472, respectively. CZPLT 203 (SVL = 31mm) had a tail trifurcated at the tip with three divisions measuring 12.5, 4.5, and 15 mm (ventral left to right; Fig. 1A). The short middle section is deflected ventrally and not visible dorsally. CZPLT 472 (SVL = 35.5 mm) shows a complete regenerated tail that is deflected (i.e., due to a putative predation attempt) laterally at the base (10.28 mm from the vent), presumably due to the damage caused during an attempted predation event. This injury resulted in the regeneration of a second red-colored tail measuring 7.5 mm at the site of the deflection (5.43 mm from the vent; Fig. 1B).

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