

Dr Nikolay Poyarkov
Academic Editor
Peer J

Dear Dr. Poyarkov

We received revisions from Dr. J. Campbell, an anonymous reviewer and yourself. First of all, we appreciate your time and effort invested in this manuscript. We revised the manuscript considering all of the useful suggestions and modified the manuscript as follows:

Reviewer # 1 Dr. Jonathan Campbell strongly endorsed publication of the manuscript because he found it to be very useful for the understanding of salamander systematics and taxonomy.

Reviewer #2. Anonymous. Requested that we include or at least mention something about karyological data in the ms as stated in his revision: *The manuscript presents a convincing analysis of this group and a thorough diagnosis of the newly identified species. My one and only concern is that this is one of the few groups of plethodontid salamanders that have interesting features in their karyotypes, and yet chromosome diversity is not mentioned in this manuscript at all!*

We followed his advice and included the following paragraph at the beginning of the discussion: Since its initial designation by Taylor (1944), *Chiropterotriton* has proven to be a problematic taxon. As originally conceived, the genus contained small montane species of tropical salamanders with broad hands and feet and the outermost digit relatively well developed. Species ranged from terrestrial to arboreal and occurred at relatively high elevations (9,000 to 11,000 feet, or roughly 2750 to 3350 m). With a largely Mexican distribution, the initial ten species nevertheless extended geographically to Honduras. Later, species from as far south as Costa Rica were added to the genus. Today, the taxon is restricted to Mexico, north and west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec but mainly in eastern Mexico (as far west as southeastern Coahuila, central San Luis Potosi and Queretaro, and western Distrito Federal and Morelos). The known elevational range is both lower (to about 690 m below Xicotepec de Juarez, Veracruz) and higher (to at least 4015 m on Cofre de Perote) than was known when Taylor worked. Species further to the south once considered congeneric are now assigned to the distantly related genera *Cryptotriton*, *Dendrotriton* and *Nototriton*. While most species are small, *C. magnipes* reaches about 60 mm SVL. Darda's (1994) southern group is the most taxonomically difficult group in the genus, and even after our description of four new members of it herein (*C. casasi* stands out as morphologically unique among the taxa named, and we can't determine at this time to which group it belongs) there is still taxonomic work remaining. **Moreover, opportunities exist for additional research investigations, especially cytological. Chromosomal heteromorphism is reported for a few species of *Chiropterotriton*, including potential sex chromosomes and supernumerary chromosomes (Sessions and Kezer 1991). Similarly, genome size has been studied in only four species. Known values are at the smaller end of the size range for the tropical salamander radiation; average C-value per species ranges from 24.7 to 28.5 pg DNA (Sessions and Kezer 1991).**

Editor revision. Finally, from your revision and annotated manuscript we added "sp. nov." where the new species are mentioned in all the figures and tables and dealt with all the minor things marked in the ms.

I hope you find this revision acceptable.

Sincerely,



Dra. Gabriela Parra Olea

