



Distribution of the Costa Rican Glasstail, *Urotheca myersi* Savage and Lahanas 1979

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The genus *Urotheca* comprises eight small leaf litter-dwelling species, five of which occur in Costa Rica and Panama. Three species (*U. fulviceps*, *U. pachyura*, and *U. myersi*) have uniform dorsal coloration, unmarked venters, and bronze heads, characters that readily distinguish them from congeners. The Costa Rican Glasstail (*U. myersi*) differs

from the other two similar species by its almost clean supralabials (heavily dotted in *U. fulviceps*), bronze head coloration extending only 1–2 scales past the posterior edge of the parietal scales (3–4 scales in *U. fulviceps*), absence of dashes on the lowest dorsal scale rows (present in *U. pachyura*), and its bright yellow venter (not bright yellow in *U. fulviceps* and *U.*



Fig. 1. A young female Costa Rican Glasstail (*Urotheca myersi*) (UCR 23574): Lateral view of the head (A); Left and right lateral views (B–C), venter (D). Photographs by César L. Barrio-Amorós (A, C) and Bronislava Gabrisova (B, D).

pachyura). *Urotheca pachyura* also has a parapatric distribution in the lowlands and adjacent lower slopes along the Caribbean versant from Nicaragua to Colombia (Savage 2002).

I herein report *Urotheca myersi* from Cerro Paraguas, San José Province, Costa Rica (8°46'35.84"N, 83°02'43.47"W; elev. 1,501 m asl), based on a young female (SVL 15.8 cm, TL 8.5 cm, total length 24.3 cm) with 17 dorsal scale rows, 130 ventral scales, and 111 paired subcaudal scales (Fig. 1). This is the fourth record of this Central American endemic in the vertebrate collection of the Department of Herpetology, Universidad de Costa Rica, San José (UCR 23574) (Fig. 2). The three previously documented localities include the type locality at Finca de Jardín, Cordillera de Talamanca, around 10 km south of Villa Mills (2,225 m asl) (Savage and Lahanas 1989) plus the western slope of Cerro Chirripó Grande,

2,000 m asl (paratype; Savage and Lahanas 1989) and Finca las Alturas, Cantón Coto Brus, 15 km NNE San Vito, 1,500 m asl (Lips 1993).

Lips (1993) listed the species from Chiriquí Grande (a well-known locality in Panama), citing the number CRE (Costa Rican Expeditions; Jay Savage's field numbers in Costa Rica) 10095, which actually applies to the paratype from Cerro Chirripó Grande (Savage and Lahanas 1989). However, Chiriquí Grande is a small village in the Caribbean lowlands of Bocas del Toro, where the habitat and biogeographical scope (Caribbean rather than Pacific versant) differ distinctly from those of all other known localities in Costa Rica. The confusion probably resulted from the similarity of the names of the two localities (Chirripó Grande in Costa Rica and Chiriquí Grande in Panama). I suggest that any mention of the presence of the species in Panama, which also was noted by Savage (2002) and Solórzano (2004), presumably based on the Lips (1993) notation, is in error and herein restrict the known distribution of *U. myersi* to the Pacific slopes of the Cordillera de Talamanca in Costa Rica. I acknowledge that the species could well be found in Panama, as suitable habitat extends continuously along the Pacific slopes of the Talamanca Cordillera from Costa Rica into Panama.

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Fig. 2. Known localities for the Costa Rican Glashtail (*Urotheca myersi*) in Costa Rica. Yellow dots mark literature records (Savage and Lahanas 1989; Lips 1993). The red dot indicates the new locality reported herein.