

LEAPING LIZARDS: PERU FINDS A NEW ONE

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A new species of lizard, of the genus *Proctoporus*, was found in a high Andean area of a national park in Peru. Image for Representation. | Photo Credit: AFP

A new species of lizard, of the genus *Proctoporus*, was found in a high Andean area of a national park in Peru, authorities said Friday.

This small species was located in the Otishi National Park, in the jungle area shared by the departments of Cusco and Junin, the Peruvian authority for protected areas announced.

This is a new specimen of the genus *Proctoporus* that includes species that inhabit yungas forests and high mountain grasslands on the Amazon slope of the Andes," said the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (Sernanp), without specifying the date of discovery in an area located between 3,241 and 3,269 meters above sea level.

Among its characteristics, "its smooth scales on the head, which lack grooves or roughness, and the eyelids with an undivided translucent disc" stand out, the agency reported.

Males have a dark gray to black neck, breast, and belly, while females have a pale gray neck, breast, and belly with a diffused dark gray.

Peruvian authorities say that there are 20 species of *Proctoporus*, of which 18 are found in Peru. The discovery was made by a team of five researchers.

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