

## Range extensions for Lineated *Dryocopus lineatus* and Pale-billed Woodpeckers *Campephilus guatemalensis*, and first records for the state of Morelos, Mexico

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Reportamos evidencia visual y auditiva que documenta la presencia de los carpinteros Lineado *Dryocopus lineatus* y Pico-pálido *Campephilus guatemalensis* en Morelos, estado del centro de México. Las dos especies fueron registradas dentro de la Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra de Huautla y estos avistamientos constituyen el primer registro para el estado de Morelos y para el centro de México.

Only two representatives of the genera *Dryocopus* and *Campephilus* are currently known in Mexico: Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus* and Pale-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus guatemalensis*. Both are relatively common within the narrow strip of dry tropical deciduous forest along the Pacific coast, as well as in lowland tropical forest on the Gulf coast<sup>4</sup>. These regions constitute the northernmost limits of the distribution of both species. Both occur in tropical deciduous, gallery and secondary forests as well as in edge, plantations and mangroves<sup>4</sup>. Our new records were obtained within the Sierra de Huautla Biosphere Reserve (SHBR), in southern Morelos, south-central Mexico (Fig. 1).

A pair of *Dryocopus lineatus* was observed on 16 March 1999, along the Arroyo Grande creek near the town of Rancho Viejo, being identified by the red crest, black ear-coverts, white open-ended V on the mantle and by vocalisations. One was an adult male, with a red forecrown and malar region. The other had a black forecrown and malar, and was either a female or immature. The amount of white on the moustachial stripe was not quantified and therefore we could not determine whether the birds belonged to the subspecies *similis* (white stripe) or *scapularis* (white reduced or lacking). They foraged on a dead tree (*Bursera* sp.), between 08h45 and 09h10, at a distance of c.30 m from us. Once, one flew to a nearby *Jacaratia mexicana* tree where it started preening, while the other remained foraging at the *Bursera* tree. Four minutes later the first individual produced a rapid series of laughing calls, increasing in volume, typical of the species. These were returned by the second individual, which then joined the other bird. After five minutes both flew out of view.

*Campephilus guatemalensis* was recorded on 19 February 1999, while one of us (B. Milá) was conducting point counts along the Barranca Ajuchitlan, at the north edge of the reserve. At least one was heard drumming within a 75 m radius of us, giving two rapid, loud taps, occasionally followed by 1–3 further taps of decreasing speed and strength. The

drum is characteristic of the species and considered diagnostic (S. N. G. Howell pers. comm.). Similar drumming was heard in the same general area two days later.

Dominant vegetation in the area is dry tropical deciduous forest. Conspicuous tree species include *Plumeria rubra*, *Comocladia engleriana*, *Erythrina americana*, *Ficus* spp., *Ceiba* spp., *Bursera* spp., *Cnidocolus* sp., *Licanea* sp., *Jacaratia mexicana*, *Sapindus saponaria*, *Haematoxylum brasiletto* and *Acacia acatlensis*. The reserve encompasses c.60,000 ha in southern Morelos and is located at



Figure 1. Position of the Sierra de Huautla Biosphere Reserve in Morelos state and study sites within the reserve (white squares within the lower shaded area).

the north edge of the Balsas River basin. This area is considered an important biogeographical zone within south-central Mexico and a conservation priority area by the governmental Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad<sup>2</sup>. SHBR is the largest Mexican protected area created with the specific objective of preserving dry tropical deciduous forest, and is possibly the most important representative area of this forest type in the region<sup>3</sup>. This habitat is rich in plant and animal endemics, and is considered to be among the most threatened tropical ecosystems in the Neotropics<sup>1,5</sup>.

The nearest site where *D. lineatus* has been registered is near Acahuizotla, Guerrero<sup>6</sup>, on the Pacific slope of the Sierra Madre Occidental, c.125 km south-east of the present observation. The nearest *C. guatemalensis* record is from Mezcala, Guerrero, in the Balsas River basin, where it is rare and occasional<sup>6</sup>. This site is c.90 km south-east of the present observation. Both these sites are lower than 1,000 m. Our records extend both species' distribution in Mexico by nearly 100 km, into central Mexico, and constitute the first records for the state of Morelos.

## References

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