

Karyotypic characterization of three Chilean subspecies of *Liolaemus monticola*

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Liolaemus monticola, Müller and Hellmich, is a highly variable, endemic montane species distributed along the temperate Andes in Chile. The subspecies (Müller and Hellmich) karyotypes established from their type localities are *Liolaemus monticola villaricensis* and *Liolaemus monticola chillanensis*; they retain a relatively conservative $2n = 32$, with 12 macrochromosomes and 20 microchromosomes. *Liolaemus monticola monticola* differs strikingly from the former having a diploid number ranging from 38 to 40 in different variants. The increased diploid number can be explained by several possible independent chromosomal centric fissions of 1 or 2 pairs of macrochromosomes, and changes in the chromosomal morphology can be explained by pericentric inversion and simple translocation. *Liolaemus monticola monticola* is also polymorphic for chromosomal fission in pair no. 3. There is also an increase in the number of microchromosomes. © 1981, American Genetic Association.