The Mexican Kingsnake *Lampropeltis mexicana* (Garman, 1884) occurs in eastern parts of the Central Plateau and adjacent Sierra Madre Oriental in Mexico, where it has been documented from the states of Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, México, and San Luis Potosí; at elevations from 1,194 to 2,438 m (Heimes, 2016; Hansen and Salmon, 2017). In Aguascalientes, this species is known from a single female specimen (snout–vent length [SVL] = 465 mm; total length [TL] = 530 mm; Fig. 2B) found and killed by local people on 27 October 2001 at 2200 h, at La Tinajuela, Asientos (CZUAA-REP-483), in the eastern part of the state (22.05931°N, 101.91070°W; WGS 84; elevation 2,082 m; Vázquez-Díaz and Quintero-Díaz, 2005; Hansen and Salmon, 2017).

*Lampropeltis mexicana* occurs in rocky, open habitats, from high-elevation desert to mesic oak forests. The habitats just south and east of San Luis Potosí city, in the Sierra de Mineral de Pozos in Guanajuato, and eastern Aguascalientes are rocky, almost treeless landscapes, with small patches of oak forest. Conditions are much wetter in the mountains of eastern San Luis Potosí near Alvarez, where summer weather includes rain and fog; the habitat here consists of limestone outcrops in patchy oak forest (Hansen and Salmon, 2017).

Recently, based on allopatric distributions and unique combinations of morphological and colour pattern characters, Hansen and Salmon (2017) considered *alterna*, *greeri*, *leonis*, *mexicana*, *ruthveni*, and *webbi* as species-level taxa, diagnosable based on a range of discrete characters. In Jalisco, *L. greeri* and *L. ruthveni* are present, while in Aguascalientes, *L. greeri* and *L. mexicana* (sensu stricto) occur, both cases with allopatric distributions. *Lampropeltis greeri* is present in elevated regions in northern Jalisco and in the western portion of Aguascalientes, *L. mexicana* in the far eastern portion of Aguascalientes, and *L. ruthveni* in central Jalisco. *Lampropeltis mexicana* is a moderate-sized species of kingsnake with a maximum TL of 1,156 mm (Hansen and Salmon, 2017), similar to the size maximum for *L. greeri* and *L. ruthveni*. The colour pattern of *L. ruthveni* is similar to that of nearby populations of *L. polyzona*, with a tricolour pattern, which consists of white, orange or grey bands, surrounded by black bands, which are separated by red bands, a black head, and often lighter markings on the snout; while the presence of black-bordered red blotches or bands on a grey or brown ground colour is distinctive in *L. greeri* and *L. mexicana*. A black postocular dash is present in *L. mexicana* (sometimes present in *L. greeri*). Red head markings typically are elaborate, and often are tri-lobed in *L. mexicana* (*L. greeri* with black head cap markings). *Lampropeltis mexicana* is similar to *L. greeri* in lacking pattern polymorphism, with the exception of the *L. greeri* population from Sierra del Laurel, Aguascalientes, and Jalisco, where modest levels of pattern variation are evident (Hansen and Salmon, 2017). Sexual dichromatism is evident in captive-bred *L. mexicana*, as adult males tend to be more brightly marked, a character discernible even in some captive-produced hatchlings (Hansen and Salmon, 2017). Similar to *L. greeri*, there is a lack of ontogenetic colour pattern change in *L. mexicana*. The dorsal blotches of individuals from the northern part of the range (Sierra La
Trinidad, San Luis Potosí) are elongated, compared to snakes from more southern localities. The ventral scale counts (190–200) are slightly lower, but partly overlap those for *L. greeri* (197–204) and *L. leonis* (194–212) (Hansen and Salmon, 2017).

Here we report an adult specimen of *Lampropeltis mexicana* (Fig. 1), found on 11 November 2018, at 7 km northwest of Chinampas, Ojuelos de Jalisco, Jalisco (21.883349°N, 101.857216°W; WGS 84) at an elevation of 2,408 m (online record 18818307) provided by Naturalista (CONABIO, 2019). The individual was observed at 1214 h crawling in the leaf litter, in natural grassland, scattered oaks (*Quercus*), and rock outcrops. This specimen represents the first record for Jalisco and is located 20.2 km south (in a straight line) of the record by Vázquez-Díaz and Quintero-Díaz (2005) at La Tinajuela, and 5.3 km south (in a straight line) of the closest record at Aguascalientes, mentioned in the following paragraph.

An additional female specimen of *Lampropeltis mexicana* (SVL = 220 mm; TL = 263 mm; Fig. 2A), was collected on 27 September 2017, at Palo Alto, El Llano, Aguascalientes (21.92424°N, 101.88467°W; WGS 84) at an elevation of 2,436 m. The individual was observed at 1330 h beneath a rock (50 x 60 cm) in an area with little slope, natural grassland, scattered oaks (*Quercus*) and prickly pears (*Opuntia*), and rock outcrops. This specimen was found 16 years after the first record of the species in the state of Aguascalientes and is located 15.2 km south (in a straight line) of the record by Vázquez-Díaz and Quintero-Díaz (2005), and 75.5 km (in a straight line) southwest of the closest record at 84 km west-northwest of San Luis Potosí city (Morakfa, 1977; Gartska, 1982), and 78.3 km (in a straight line) southwest of an additional record at 8 km S of Pozuelos, San Luis Potosí (García-Vázquez et al., 2017). The specimen was deposited in the herpetological collection of the Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes (UAA) (CZUAA- REP-484). We noted the following
characteristics for the specimen: 190 ventrals; 58 subcaudals; 28 body blotches; 8 tail blotches (similar to what has been observed in specimens from nearby locations; Table 1). The presence of *Lampropeltis mexicana* in this new location was to be expected, due to the presence of optimal habitat for this species, and additional records nearby (Fig. 3).

In Mexico, the conservation authority regards *L. mexicana* (*sensu lato*, inclusive of *greeri*, *leonis*, and *mexicana* by implication) as Threatened (SEMARNAT, 2010). Under the name of *L. mexicana*, Vázquez-Díaz and Quintero-Díaz (2007) considered this an IUCN Least Concern species. Wilson and Townsend (2010) obtained a Conservation Status Score of 7, value determined as part of a more inclusive *L. mexicana*. Hansen and Salmon (2017) reassessed *L. mexicana* (*sensu stricto*) and obtained an Environmental Vulnerability Score of 16. This species almost certainly occurs in south-eastern Zacatecas based on our records and habitat continuity; additional field surveys are necessary to confirm the presence of *L. mexicana* in this state. Now, with these new records, we can confirm that Jalisco possesses three species of the *L. mexicana* group (*L. greeri*, *L. mexicana* and *L. ruthveni*), and confirms the presence of two for Aguascalientes (*L. greeri* and *L. mexicana*). Jalisco, Aguascalientes and surrounding areas harbour plains and plateaus with rocky outcrops, crasicaul shrubland, natural grasslands, and oak forests. Unfortunately, much of the natural habitat in this region is being modified by agriculture and livestock, as well as by the construction of wind farms and photovoltaic parks, and mining. Apparently, *L. mexicana* is not abundant in the region, based on the three specimens documented in the last 17 years. Therefore, with this new record for Jalisco and the second specimen for Aguascalientes, as well as other species in some category of risk documented in this area (see Carbajal-Márquez and Quintero-Díaz 2016, 2017), it is possible that better management plans and conservation strategies can be generated both at state and regional level.

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