ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

### Journal of Thermal Biology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jtherbio



## Short-term predicted extinction of Andean populations of the lizard *Stenocercus guentheri* (Iguanidae: Tropidurinae)



María Belén Andrango<sup>a,\*</sup>, Carla Sette<sup>b</sup>, Omar Torres-Carvajal<sup>a</sup>

- <sup>a</sup> Museo de Zoología, Escuela de Ciencias Biológicas, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Avenida 12 de Octubre y Roca, Apartado 17-01-2184, Quito, Ecuador
- <sup>b</sup> Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA

#### ARTICLEINFO

# Keywords: Andes Critical thermal Extinction Global warming Lizard Restriction hours

#### ABSTRACT

We studied the thermal physiology of the Andean lizard  $Stenocercus\ guentheri$  in order to evaluate the possible effects of global warming on this species. We determined the preferred body temperature  $(T_{\rm pref})$ , critical thermals (CTmin, CTmax), and hours of restriction and activity.  $T_{\rm pref}$  was  $32.14 \pm 1.83$  °C; CTmin was 8.31 °C in adults and 9.14 °C in juveniles, whereas CTmax was 43.28 °C in adults and 41.68 °C in juveniles. To assess extinction risk, we used the model created by Sinervo et al. (2010) and predicted that 16.7% of populations will have a high risk of extinction by 2020, with an increase to 26.7% by 2050. These results suggest that this species, despite being able to maintain its  $T_{\rm pref}$  through behavioral thermoregulation and habitat selection, could be physiologically sensitive to climate warming; thus, the potential for local adaptation may be limited under a warmer climate. Further studies focusing on the ability of S guentheri to evolve higher  $T_{\rm pref}$  and thermal tolerances are needed to understand the ability of this species to respond to climate change.

#### 1. Introduction

Global warming is one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity (Malcolm et al., 2006; Thomas et al., 2004; Vörösmarty et al., 2010). The global mean surface temperature increased by 0.85 °C (range: 0.65–1.06 °C) over the period 1880–2012. The decade 2003–2012 has been the warmest in the instrumental record. Climate projections indicate that in this century global mean surface air temperature could increase between 0.9 and 2.3 °C under the best emissions scenario, and between 3.2 and 5.4 °C under worse scenarios (IPCC, 2014).

Both yearly minimum and maximum temperatures have increased in South America, with the daily temperature amplitude (i.e., difference between the lowest and highest daily temperatures) dropping in some regions (Barry and Seimon, 2000). In Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, the mean annual temperature has increased by 0.8 °C in the last century (Herzog et al., 2011), which has caused retreat of the tropical Andean glaciers at an increasing rate since the late 1970s (Rabatel et al., 2013). Projections of climate change in the tropical Andes indicate a trend of continuous warming throughout this century, with a higher temperature increase at higher altitudes (Herzog et al., 2011; Vuille et al., 2008). Further changes in hydrological cycles are also predicted, with increasing rainfall during the wet season and decreasing rainfall during the dry season (Vuille et al., 2008).

Climate change has an impact on different aspects of species natural histories, such as phenology, morphology, physiology, and behavior (Deutsch et al., 2008; Inouve, 2008; Przybylo et al., 2000). The vulnerability of species to climate change depends on their sensitivity to environmental changes, the degree of exposure to changes, their resilience, and their adaptive potential (Williams et al., 2008). In addition, the impact of climate change on species varies geographically (Thomas et al., 2004); for instance, thermal tolerance of many organisms is proportional to the magnitude of annual variation in temperature (Ghalambor et al., 2006), a feature of climate that increases with latitude. Therefore, those species with narrower thermal tolerances, such as tropical species, would be the most affected by climate change (Williams et al., 2007). Likewise, altitudinal patterns affect the operative temperature of an organism (Angilletta, 2009). Hence, organisms with the highest extinction risk are those with narrow thermal tolerance, limited acclimation ability, and reduced dispersal (Deutsch et al., 2008).

Most physiological processes in reptiles are temperature dependent and frequently optimal only within a narrow range of body temperatures, known as the optimal temperature range (Huey and Stevenson, 1979). Essentially, temperature affects all aspects of behavior and life history of reptiles, including locomotion, reproductive biology, sensory information, foraging ability, courtship, and feeding and growth rates

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author.

(Angilletta et al., 2002; Boretto and Ibargüengoytía, 2009; Espinoza et al., 2004; Ibargüengoytía et al., 2010; Meiri et al., 2013; Sears, 2005; Zug et al., 2001). In addition, temperature is a determining factor for species distribution ranges (Andrews, 1998).

The thermo-physiological profile of a reptile species is essential to predict the effect that global warming will have on species range and survivorship. To visualize the effect of temperature increase on the fitness of a species, it is necessary to know how closely the body temperatures  $(T_{\rm h})$  experienced in nature relate to the optimal temperature of performance (To; Angilletta, 2009), which generally coincides with the preferred temperature ( $T_{\mathrm{pref}}$ ) measured in the laboratory (Martin and Huey, 2008). Likewise, knowledge of critical thermal minimum and maximum temperatures is necessary to calculate the limits of thermal tolerance, rates and efficiencies of performance, and the relationship between latitude and the ranges of thermal tolerance (Grigg and Buckley, 2013; Huey et al., 2009; Huey et al., 2012). Another important factor in reptiles like lizards is the potential for behavioral thermoregulation. The effectiveness of lizards to thermoregulate depends on environmental sources of heat gain and loss (Zug et al., 2001). To evaluate this factor, it is necessary to know the hours of restriction and hours of activity. Hours of restriction are the daily number of hours a lizard must spend in a refuge due to excessive environmental heat; consequently, lizards have limited time available for foraging, dispersal and reproduction (Sinervo et al., 2010). Hours of activity are the daily number of hours that remain for lizards to fulfill their vital tasks. Global warming may increase the hours of restriction and decrease the hours of activity experienced by a population, reducing population growth rates and increasing extinction risk (Sinervo et al., 2010).

Studies of thermal physiology of tropical species of lizards are scarce (Jordán and Pérez, 2012; Sepúlveda et al., 2008; Van Berkum et al., 1986), and, to our knowledge, there are no published studies on species from the tropical Andes, one of Earth's hotspots (Myers et al., 2000) severely affected by climate warming (Rabatel et al., 2013). The purpose of this study is to determine the preferred body temperature, critical thermal temperatures, and hours of restriction and activity in the Andean lizard *Stenocercus guentheri*, and use these data to predict possible population-level effects of global warming. This species is an active thermoregulator that inhabits the northern Andes of Ecuador at an elevation range of 2135–3890 m (Carvajal-Campos, 2009; Torres-Carvajal and Mafla-Endara, 2013).

#### 2. Materials and methods

#### 2.1. Study area and field work data collection

This study was carried out in one of the last patches of Dry Andean Matorral and Dry Montane Forest in the Northern Andes. The study site lies in Parque Recreacional y Bosque Protector Jerusalem (00° 00′ 19″ -00° 00′ 51″ N, and 78° 21′ 06″ -78° 24′ 08″ W), a 1109 ha protected area with an elevation range of 2450-3000 m (Navarrete, 2010).

Five one-day sampling trips were conducted from 24 March to 21 April 2014, in which 39 specimens (13 males, 14 females, and 12 juveniles) were caught between 9:00–12:00 by noosing. We measured body temperature  $(T_{\rm b})$  of 22 of these individuals immediately after capture using a thermocouple (Omega 4-Channel Handheld Data Logger Thermometer) externally over the cloacal region. Additionally, we validated the data by performing a comparative test between temperature recorded externally and temperature recorded by introducing the thermocouple in the cloaca. We recorded these two data in 15 lizards simultaneously, every two minutes during ten minutes. Then we performed a Paired Samples t-test using the means of each individual, for each method. And no difference were found (t-test, t=-1.311, t=0.211).

We recorded the environmental temperature at the capture sites by

measuring substrate temperature and air temperature 1 cm above the ground. Body mass was recorded for each lizard using a precision digital scale (My Weigh I300), and reproductive status (Juvenile/Adult) and sex were determined by observation of phenotypic traits (Torres-Carvajal, 2007). Lizards were maintained at room temperature (22 °C) in plastic terrariums for four days during the experiments, and subsequently re-released at capture sites.

#### 2.2. Thermal preference

 $T_{\rm pref}$  was obtained in the laboratory (between 9:00–13:00) one day after capture. Lizards (N=39) were put directly into thermal gradients (substrate temperature range: 23–63 °C; air temperature range: 23.5–40 °C) that consisted of plywood board tracks that were each 1 m long, 12 cm wide and 20 cm high. The substrate was made of plywood as well. The thermal gradient was created along each channel by placing a 100 W light bulb as a heat source at one end. Body temperature was recorded in real time using a thermocouple that was placed anterior to the cloacal region and secured with medical cloth tape (Corbalán et al., 2013). Lizards were placed in individual channels for an hour and a half with an acclimation period of 15 min. Body temperature of each lizard was recorded every 30 s. Mean  $T_{\rm pref}$  was calculated by averaging the recorded body temperatures of each lizard. Individual mean  $T_{\rm pref}$  values were averaged among all lizards within age and sex classes to get the mean population  $T_{\rm pref}$  (Angilletta and Werner, 1998).

#### 2.3. Critical thermal temperatures

Tolerance to low temperatures was measured using the critical thermal minima measurement (CTmin) 2 days after capture (N=35). CTmin was determined by placing each lizard in a transparent and dry glass chamber that was immersed in ice water; the chamber temperature was dropped at a rate of 0.8 °C/min from 22.8 °C to a minimum value of 0 °C. Body temperature was recorded in real time using a thermocouple that was placed anterior to the cloacal region and secured with medical cloth tape, every 30 s until the individual was unable to right itself after being placed on its back.

The tolerance to high temperatures was measured using the critical thermal maxima (CTmax) 3 days after capture (N=35). CTmax was determined using the same procedure as for the CTmin, but with a chamber immersed in water heated by a stove from 20.4 °C to a maximum temperature of 54.8 °C at approximately 1.8 °C/min.

Mean critical thermal temperatures were calculated averaging temperature values of all lizards in each group (males, females, and juveniles). We compared the data between groups using One-Way-ANCOVA, with body mass as covariate. Tukey test (P>0.05) was applied for means comparison. Assumptions of normality and variance-homogeneity were tested with the one-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Levene tests, respectively.

#### 2.4. Operative temperature (T<sub>e</sub>)

The operative environmental temperature represents the internal  $T_{\rm b}$  that a lizard may experience in its natural environment (Dzialoeski, 2005). Measurements of  $T_{\rm e}$  are used to assess the availability of thermal microenvironments in the range of optimal physiological temperatures (Williams et al., 2008). In order to estimate  $T_{\rm e}$  in the field, physical models of lizards were placed at five representative microhabitats used by Stenocercus guentheri.

Models were constructed using gray PVC pipes, 2 cm in diameter and 10 cm long, with the ends sealed with liquid silicone. The models were connected in pairs to V2-Pro HOBO data loggers, with one model on each of two probes. For each data logger, one model was placed in a shaded refuge site, whereas the other was placed in a sun-exposed site similar to where active lizards were observed. Data loggers were launched for five months between 23 March and 23 August 2014 to record  $T_{\rm e}$ .  $T_{\rm e}$  on each probe was recorded every 5 min. These models were calibrated using live specimens that were placed on the same microhabitats of models, and monitored in real time with a thermocouple taped to their bellies ( $R^2$ =0.951, P<0.001).

We used the  $T_{\rm e}$  recorded in the field to calculate the number of hours in which lizards must retreat to shelters to avoid overheating (Hr). According to the Sinervo et al. (2010) model, Hr is calculated as the number of hours per day in which the average  $T_{\rm e}$  across all models is higher than the  $T_{\rm pref}$ . Additionally, we calculated the hours of activity, Ha – hours that lizards are active outside their shelters performing various behaviors (Ibargüengoytía, 2005) – as the number of daily hours in which  $T_{\rm e}$  is between the minimum temperature of activity and  $T_{\rm pref}$  of the species. In accordance with Sinervo et al. (2010), we assumed that the minimum temperature of activity for thermoregulatory species is 25 °C.

To calculate the relationship between Hr and daily maximum air temperature ( $T_{\rm max}$ ), daily  $T_{\rm max}$  records for the same days in which the lizard models were deployed were obtained from a weather station operated by Instituto Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología (INAMHI) located 4-km-away (Guayllabamba).

A linear regression of Hr versus the difference between  $T_{\rm max}$  and  $T_{\rm pref}$  was performed to obtain the equation: Hr=slope \* $(T_{\rm max}-T_{\rm pref})$ + intercept for values measured in the field. This equation was then used to model extinction based on  $T_{\rm max}$  values from global climate layers for the years 1975, 2010, 2020, 2050 and 2080.

#### 2.5. Model of extinction prediction

The model introduced by Sinervo et al. (2010) was used to predict where extinctions of S. guentheri populations are likely to occur. This model integrates georeferenced points of species distribution,  $T_{\rm pref}$ , global daily maximum temperature surfaces, and a predictive equation for hours of restriction (Hr), based on operative environmental temperature ( $T_{\rm e}$ ) and  $T_{\rm max}$  for the years of 1975, 2010, 2020, 2050, and 2080. The model estimates the breakpoint at one of these specific decades in which the value of Hr is too high for a population to be viable according to the physiological model of local extinction (sensu Sinervo et al., 2010).

A total of 217 georeferenced localities (WGS84) of occurrence of *Stenocercus guentheri* were obtained from the collection database of Museo de Zoología QCAZ, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. Of these, 30 localities representing distinct populations were included in the extinction model (Table A.1), because they were separated from each other by at least 1 km, a requirement to avoid pseudoreplication (Peterson et al., 2004).

We used R (R Core Team, 2014) to extract  $T_{\rm max}$  values for each of the 30 chosen localities from global climate layers available at WorldClim (www.worldclim.org) for the year 1975 (climate database from 1950 to 2000), and the IPCC 4th Assessment, CCSM A2a scenario (10-arc minute resolution) predictions for  $T_{\rm max}$  in the years 2010, 2020, 2050 and 2080. The  $T_{\rm max}$  values for the 30 localities were applied to the linear equation in order to predict the average Hr experienced by each population year-round in order to predict local population extinctions throughout the range of Stenocercus Sten

To consider whether the 30 localities where *S. guentheri* occurs have different climatic properties, we conducted a Principal Component Analysis (PCA), using 19 temperature and precipitation-

**Table 1**Thermal preference ( $T_{\text{pref}}$ ), Body temperature ( $T_{\text{b}}$ ), Critical thermal minima (CTmin) and maxima (CTmax) for juveniles and adults of *Stenocercus guentheri*. Mean, Standard Error (SE), and lower and upper bounds of a 95% confidence interval are given.

	Mean	SE	95% Confider	95% Confidence interval  Lower bound upper bound	
			Lower bound		
T <sub>pref</sub> (N=39)	32.14	0.298	31.535	32.743	
$T_{\rm b} \; (N=22)$	31.93	0.506	30.879	32.985	
CTmin					
Juveniles (N=12)	9.14	0.646	7.821	10.452	
Adults (N=23)	8.31	0.423	7.446	9.168	
CTmax					
Juveniles (N=12)	41.68	0.851	39.947	43.406	
Adults (N=23)	43.28	0.520	42.227	44.339	

based bioclimatic variables (BioClim) generated from climatic data provided by Ministerio del Ambiente de Ecuador (MAE, 2013).

#### 3. Results

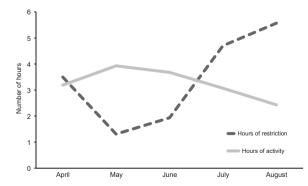
#### 3.1. Preferred temperatures and critical thermals

 $T_{\rm pref},\,T_{\rm b},\,{\rm CTmin},\,{\rm and}\,{\rm CTmax}$  values are presented in Table 1. There were no differences in  $T_{\rm pref}$  among males, females and juveniles (ANOVA,  $F=1.262,\,P=0.295$ ). Consequently, the average  $T_{\rm pref}$  for all individuals,  $32.14\pm1.83$  °C (N=39), was pooled in other analyses. We found no differences in  $T_{\rm b}$  measure in the field among groups (ANOVA,  $F=1.913,\,P=0.175$ ), the average  $T_{\rm b}$  was  $31.93\pm2.32$  °C (N=22). Additionally, we found no difference between  $T_{\rm pref}$  and  $T_{\rm b}$  (t-test,  $t=0.378,\,P=0.707$ ). By contrast, both  $T_{\rm pref}$  and  $T_{\rm b}$  of S. guentheri differed significantly from values proposed for the clade Tropidurinae (t-test,  $T_{\rm pref}$ :  $t=-3.520,\,P=0.001$  and  $T_{\rm b}$ :  $t=-3.037,\,P=0.003$ ).

CTmin was significantly different between males, females, and juveniles (ANCOVA, F=4.73, P=0.008) and the Tukey test (P>0.05) showed differences between adults and juveniles. Hence, we established that CTmin is 8.31 °C in adults and 9.14 °C in juveniles (Table 1). Similarly, CTmax was significantly different among males, females and juveniles (ANCOVA, F=7.317, P=0.001), and the Tukey test (P>0.05) showed differences between adults and juveniles. Hence we established that CTmax is 43.28 °C in adults and 41.68 °C in juveniles (Table 1).

#### 3.2. Hr, Ha and extinction prediction

Fluctuations of Hr and Ha for Stenocercus guentheri as calculated from data loggers deployed April – August 2014 are shown in Fig. 1. During the five months evaluated, Hr ranged between 1.31 and 5.57 h,



**Fig. 1.** Fluctuation of the hours of restriction (Hr) and hours of activity (Ha) at Parque Recreacional y Bosque Protector Jerusalem, Ecuador plotted by month (2014). The solid line shows the number of hours of activity, Ha, when  $T_{\rm e}$  is between 25 °C and 32.14 °C ( $T_{\rm pref}$ ). The dotted line shows the number of hours of restriction, Hr, when  $T_{\rm e}$  exceeds  $T_{\rm pref}$ .

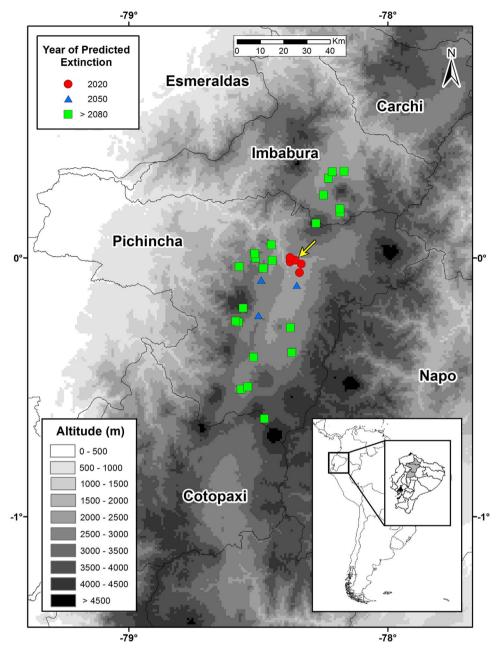


Fig. 2. Map of predicted extinction for 30 sampled populations of *Stenocercus guentheri* from northern Ecuador. The yellow arrow indicates our field site. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article).

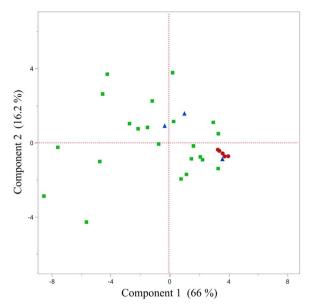
while Ha ranged between 2.43 and 3.93 h. A significant and positive correlation between Hr and the difference between  $T_{\rm max}$  and  $T_{\rm pref}$  was found (Pearson correlation, R=0.738, N=143, P<0.001). The linear equation describing this relationship was: Hr =1.02222\*( $T_{\rm max}$ - $T_{\rm pref}$ ) +10.113.

Using georeferenced points of distribution, the  $T_{\rm pref}$  obtained in the laboratory, global monthly  $T_{\rm max}$  surfaces, and the equation mentioned above, we estimated which decade the hours of restriction become too high for a population to be viable according to the physiological model of local extinction. We found that by 2020, 16.67% of the populations have a high risk of extinction, and this increases to 26.67% by 2050 (Fig. 2). The PCA shows that populations with high risk of extinction by 2020 occur in localities with similar climatic properties (Fig. 3). The first component explained 66% of the variance in the data, which represents the temperature-based bioclimatic variables. PC-2 explained 16.2% of variance, and also represents the temperature-based variables (Table 2).

#### 4. Discussion

Many Stenocercus guentheri populations persist despite the threat of warming, even through 2080 (Fig. 2). These populations occur in environments with present-day temperatures (mean air temperature  $[T_{\rm a}]$  range: 8.6–15.3 °C and mean  $T_{\rm max}$  range: 17.5–28.5 °C) that are lower than those areas containing populations at greater risk of extinction (mean  $T_{\rm a}$  range: 14.1–17.3 °C; mean  $T_{\rm max}$  range: 27.5–28.6 °C), and that share temperature-based bioclimatic properties (Fig. 3; Table 2). These findings are disturbing because some of the populations predicted to go extinct five years from now currently have high population densities (MBA, personal observation). Populations that live in the coolest environments, such as at high altitudes, may even benefit from an increase in  $T_{\rm a}$  if environmental temperatures are typically below the species'  $T_{\rm o}$  (Buckley, 2008; Kearney and Porter, 2004; Kearney et al., 2009).

Thermoregulating lizards have behavioral or physiological mechan-



**Fig. 3.** Principal component analysis (PCA) showing variation in climate among 30 sampled localities of occurrence of *Stenocercus guentheri*. Red circles show localities with predicted extinction by 2020, blue triangles show localities with predicted extinction by 2050, green squares show localities with predicted extinction by 2080. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article).

**Table 2**PCA loadings, eigenvalues, and percent variance explained for the first two PCs for the 19 temperature and precipitation-based bioclimatic variables analyzed.

Variable	PC-1	PC-2
BIO1=Annual mean temperature	0.0902	0.0367
BIO2=Mean diurnal range	0.1583	0.1060
BIO3=Isothermality	-0.0560	0.0473
BIO4=Temperature seasonality	-0.0268	-0.0486
BIO5=Max temperature of warmest month	0.0696	0.0298
BIO6=Min temperature of coldest month	0.1344	0.0508
BIO7=Temperature annual range	0.1347	0.0649
BIO8=Mean temperature of wettest quarter	0.0909	0.0352
BIO9=Mean temperature of driest quarter	0.0876	0.0394
BIO10=Mean temperature of warmest quarter	0.0910	0.0356
BIO11=Mean temperature of coldest quarter	0.0877	0.0392
BIO12=Annual precipitation	-0.0010	0.0018
BIO13=Precipitation of wettest month	-0.0105	0.0329
BIO14=Precipitation of driest month	-0.0206	0.0087
BIO15=Precipitation seasonality	0.0234	-0.0082
BIO16=Precipitation of wettest quarter	-0.0020	0.0080
BIO17=Precipitation of driest quarter	-0.0065	0.0040
BIO18=Precipitation of warmest quarter	-0.0007	0.0038
BIO19=Precipitation of coldest quarte	-0.0024	0.0038
Eigenvalue	12.549	3.077
% Variance	66.050	16.195

isms to efficiently achieve  $T_{\rm b}$  close to their  $T_{\rm pref}$  (Díaz and Cabeza-Díaz, 2004; Ellis et al., 2006; Huey, 1982; Seebacher and Franklin, 2005). We found that in *Stenocercus guentheri* the  $T_{\rm pref}$  measured in the laboratory (32.14 ± 1.83 °C) closely matches the active body temperature recorded in the field (31.93 ± 2.32 °C). Even though these lizards are able to maintain their  $T_{\rm pref}$  through behavioral thermoregulation and habitat selection,  $T_{\rm b}$  and thermal tolerances are phylogenetically conserved (Huey et al., 2009), rather than dependent on ecological filtering, dispersal, or local adaptation (Grigg and Buckley, 2013). These constraints limit the potential for local adaptation that might potentially soothe the impact of climate change (Angilletta, 2009), which has been predicted to be particularly severe for tropical species (Huey et al., 2009; Tewksbury et al., 2008). Moreover, although  $T_{\rm pref}$  and  $T_{\rm b}$  values of *Stenocercus guentheri* differ from the mean  $T_{\rm b}$  value

reported for the clade Tropidurinae (33.7  $\pm$  0.35 °C; N=73; Sinervo et al., 2010), S. guentheri could still be constrained by a low potential for evolution of thermal tolerances (Angilletta, 2009). The temperature values of Tropidurinae reported by Sinervo et al. (2010) are mostly from lowland species (elevation range: 1–2055 m; mean =306 m); therefore they should be used with caution in comparisons with highland taxa, such as S. guentheri (elevation range: 2135–3890 m), because if we compare our data with species of Tropidurinae occurring above 1000 m (32.86  $\pm$  0.63 °C; N=8; Sinervo et al., 2010), T<sub>b</sub> values of S. guentheri are not different from Tropidurinae.

We found that adults had a larger thermal tolerance breadth (CTmin–CTmax: 8.31 – 43.28 °C) than juveniles (9.14 – 41.68 °C). Because a narrow thermal tolerance breadth confers sensitivity to climate warming (Grigg and Buckley, 2013), juvenile *S. guentheri* are more at risk than adults. This may decrease the rates of recruitment into adulthood, thereby causing population declines. These ontogenetic differences in critical thermal tolerances suggest that the physiological systems underlying thermal tolerance change with age, possibly leading to differential use of microhabitats by juveniles and adults.

Although our analyses indicate that some populations of  $Stenocercus\ guentheri$  are at high extinction risk due to climate warming, these results should be interpreted with caution for three reasons. First, even though this species has low  $T_{\rm pref}$  values, it could still be active at higher temperatures below CTmax. Second, the areas occupied by this species are complex, with several microhabitats available as resting or activity sites. However, climate change can also affect habitat structure (Holmgren et al., 2006; Salazar et al., 2007), potentially changing the thermal properties of the microhabitat (i.e., increased warming due to loss of vegetation cover) (Allen et al., 2010). Third, lizards in the most vulnerable localities (lower elevations) could disperse to more suitable (i.e., colder) areas at higher elevations.

Thermoregulation is a complex process that must integrate detection of temporal and spatial variation in the thermal environment with behavioral and physiological responses (Seebacher and Shine, 2004; Valdecantos et al., 2013). Thus, to better understand the efficiency in thermoregulation achieved by this species, it is important to collect additional information. For instance, we can incorporate physiological and microclimate variation data from other localities with different climatic properties where *S. guentheri* is known to occur (Clusella-Trullas and Chown, 2011). Present-day and short-term extinctions predicted by our model can be easily validated by visiting the corresponding localities, including our study site, after the time extinctions are predicted. The ability to validate and adjust the model is the major strength of this type of analysis.

#### Acknowledgments

We are very thankful to Andrés Merino-Viteri and Don Miles who contributed with helpful advice for experimental methods and provided important suggestions. Andrés Merino-Viteri also created the bioclimatic layers used in PCA. We thank Gabriela Galarza, Simón E. Lobos, and Nadia B. Páez for their help with ArcGIS. Julio Sánchez-Otero provided statistical advice. We also thank Fernando Ayala-Varela, Estefany Guerra, and Santiago R. Ron for their help and comments. We acknowledge the Instituto Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología (INAMHI) for the meteorological data and Ministerio del Ambiente de Ecuador for providing temperature and precipitation data used in PCA. This study was conducted with permission of the Environmental Management Direction of Pichincha Government. Financial support was provided by Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (Grant number: K13060).

#### Appendix A

See Appendix Table A1.

Table A.1

Name, province, latitude, longitude and elevation (m) of 30 localities of occurrence of 
Stenocercus guentheri used in this study. Data were obtained from Museo de Zoología 
OCAZ, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

Locality	Province	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation
Limpiopungo lake	Cotopaxi	-0.6208	-78.4762	3800
Machachi (around the Factory	Pichincha	-0.5074	-78.5659	2921
"Tesalia")				
Machachi	Pichincha	-0.4973	-78.5403	2851
Uyumbicho	Pichincha	-0.3831	-78.5183	2663
Pintag	Pichincha	-0.3650	-78.3701	3000
Ilalo (ranch Chuspiyacu)	Pichincha	-0.2690	-78.3759	2576
Lloa	Pichincha	-0.2479	-78.5757	3086
Lloa (20 m from the main entrance)	Pichincha	-0.2441	-78.5866	3059
Quito (Itchimbía)	Pichincha	-0.2226	-78.4990	2894
Quito (brook Cóndor Huachana)	Pichincha	-0.1936	-78.5583	3783
Tababela	Pichincha	-0.1057	-78.3510	2297
Pusuquí	Pichincha	-0.0857	-78.4884	2653
Guayllabamba	Pichincha	-0.0564	-78.3406	2155
Casitagua (near Pomasqui)	Pichincha	-0.0390	-78.4810	3305
Alambi hill	Pichincha	-0.0330	-78.5740	2655
Road Pisque river - Parque	Pichincha	-0.0234	-78.3337	2020
Recreacional y Bosque Protector Jerusalem				
Parque Recreacional y Bosque Protector Jerusalem (1)	Pichincha	-0.0153	-78.3767	2600
San Antonio de Pichincha	Pichincha	-0.0091	-78.4458	2412
Parque Recreacional y Bosque Protector Jerusalem (detour	Pichincha	-0.0087	-78.3573	2273
to Malchinguí).				
Calacalí (stadium)	Pichincha	-0.0001	-78.5106	2833
Parque Recreacional y Bosque Protector Jerusalem (2)	Pichincha	0.0020	-78.3770	2380
Calacalí (Simón Bolívar Street)	Pichincha	0.0171	-78.5135	3001
Quito (20.9 km N)	Pichincha	0.0510	-78.4500	2455
Tabacundo (Mojanda lake)	Imbabura	0.1349	-78.2771	3150
Itambí river	Imbabura	0.1757	-78.1839	2707
Otavalo (San Pablo, COUSIN hostel)	Imbabura	0.1904	-78.1847	2738
Otavalo (Jatunyacu river)	Imbabura	0.2435	-78.2482	2536
Ibarra (Panamericana 7.5 km N)	Imbabura	0.3080	-78.2290	2447
Atuntaqui	Imbabura	0.3331	-78.2140	2412
San Antonio de Ibarra	Imbabura	0.3351	-78.1688	2330

#### References

- Allen, C.D., Macalady, A.K., Chenchouni, H., Bachelet, D., McDowell, N., Vennetier, M., Kitzberger, T., Rigling, A., Breshears, D.D., Hogg, E.H., Gonzalez, P., Fensham, R., Zhang, Z., Castro, J., Demidova, N., Lim, J.H., Allard, G., Running, S.W., Semerci, A., Cobb, N., 2010. A global overview of drought and heat-induced tree mortality reveals emerging climate change risks for forests. For. Ecol. Manag. 259, 660–684. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2009.09.001.
- Andrews, R.M., 1998. Geographic variation in field body temperature of Sceloporus lizards. J. Therm. Biol. 23, 329–334. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0306-4565(98) 00018-7
- Angilletta, M.J., 2009. Thermal Adaptation: A Theoretical and Empirical Synthesis. Oxford University press, Oxford, UK. http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198570875.001.1.
- Angilletta, M.J., Werner, Y.L., 1998. Australian geckos do not display diel variation in thermoregulatory behavior. Copeia 3, 736–742. http://dx.doi.org/10.2307/ 1447206
- Angilletta, M.J., Niewiarowski, P.H., Navas, C.A., 2002. The evolution of thermal physiology in ectotherms. J. Therm. Biol. 27, 249–268. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/ S0306-4565(01)00094-8.
- Barry, R., Seimon, A., 2000. Research for mountain area development: climatic fluctuations in the mountains of the Americas and their significance. Ambio 29, 364–370.
- Boretto, J., Ibargüengoytía, N.R., 2009. Phymaturus of Patagonia Argentina: reproductive biology of Phymaturus zapalensis (Liolaemidae) and compared dimorphic traits in the genus. J. Herpetol. 43, 96–104. http://dx.doi.org/10.1670/ 07-241R2.1.
- Buckley, L.B., 2008. Linking traits to energetics and population dynamics to predict lizard ranges in changing environments. Am. Nat. 171, E1–E8. http://dx.doi.org/ 10.1086/523949.
- Carvajal-Campos, A. 2009. Reproducción y dieta de la lagartija andina Stenocercus guentheri (Squamata: Iguania) en el Bosque Protector Jerusalén [dissertation]. Quito, Ecuador: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

- Clusella-Trullas, S., Chown, S.L., 2011. Comment on "Erosion of lizards diversity by climate change and altered thermal niches". Science 332, 537. http://dx.doi.org/ 10.1126/science.1195193.
- Corbalán, V., Debandi, G., Kubisch, E., 2013. Thermal ecology of two sympatric saxicolous lizards of the genus *Phymaturus* from the Payunia region (Argentina). J. Therm. Biol. 38, 384–389. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtherbio.2013.05.006.
- Deutsch, C.A., Tewksbury, J.J., Huey, R.B., Sheldon, K.S., Ghalambor, C.K., Haak, D., Martin, P.R., 2008. Impacts of climate warming on terrestrial ectotherms across latitude. Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA 105, 6668–6672. http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/ pnas.0709472105.
- Díaz, J., Cabezas-Díaz, S., 2004. Seasonal variation in the contribution of different behavioural mechanisms to lizard thermoregulation. Funct. Ecol. 18, 867–875. http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ji.0269-8463.2004.00916.x.
- Dzialoeski, E.M., 2005. Use of operative temperature and standard operative temperature models in thermal biology. J. Therm. Biol. 30, 317–334. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtherbio.2005.01.005.
- Ellis, D.J., Firth, B.T., Belan, I., 2006. Circadian rhythm of behavioral thermoregulation in the sleepy lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*). Herpetologica 62, 259–265. http://dx.doi.org/ 10.1655/0018-0831(2006)62[259:CROBTI]2.0.CO;2.
- Espinoza, R.R., Wiens, J.J., Tracy, C.R., 2004. Recurrent evolution of herbivory in small, cold climate lizard: breaking the ecophysiology rules of reptilian herbivory. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 101, 16819–16824. http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0401226101.
- ESRI. 2014. ArcGIS Desktop: Release 10.2. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute.
- Ghalambor, C., Huey, R.B., Martin, P.R., Tewksbury, J.J., Wang, G., 2006. Are mountain passes higher in the tropics? Janzen's hypothesis revisited. Integr. Comp. Biol. 46, 5-17. http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/icb/icj003.
- Grigg, J.W., Buckley, L.B., 2013. Conservatism of lizard thermal tolerances and body temperatures across evolutionary history and geography. Biol. Lett. 9, 20121056. http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2012.1056.
- Herzog, S.K., Martínez, R., Jørgensen, P.M., Tiessen, H. 2011. Climate change and biodiversity in the tropical Andes, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (SCOPE), São José dos Campos.
- Holmgren, M., Stapp, P., Dickman, C.R., Gracia, C., Graham, S., Gutiérrez, J.R., Squeo, F.A., 2006. Extreme climatic events shape arid and semiarid ecosystems. Front. Ecol. Environ. 4, 87–95.
- Huey, R.B., 1982. Temperature, physiology, and the ecology of the reptiles. In: Gans, C. (Ed.), Biology of the Reptilia. Wiley, New York, USA, 25–91.
- Huey, R.B., Stevenson, R.D., 1979. Integrating thermal physiology and ecology of ectotherms: a discussion of approaches. Am. Zool. 19, 357–366.
- Huey, R.B., Kearney, M.R., Krockenberger, A., Holtum, J.A., Jess, M., Williams, S.E., 2012. Predicting organismal vulnerability to climate warming: roles of behaviour, physiology and adaptation. Philos. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B: Biol. Sci. 367, 1665–1679. http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2012.0005.
- Huey, R.B., Deutsch, C.A., Tewksbury, J.J., Vitt, L.J., Hertz, P.E., Álvarez Perez, H.J., Garland, T., 2009. Why tropical forest lizards are vulnerable to climate warming. Proc. R. Soc. 276, 1939–1948. http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2008.1957.
- Ibargüengoytía, N.R., 2005. Field selected body temperatures and thermal tolerance of the syntopic lizards *Phymaturus patagonicus* and *Liolaemus elongatus* (Iguania: liolaemidae). J. Arid Environ. 62, 435–448. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/ j.jaridenv.2005.01.008.
- Ibargüengoytía, N.R., Medina, S.M., Fernández, J.B., Gutiérrez, J.A., Tappari, F., Scolaro, A., 2010. Thermal biology of the southernmost lizards in the world: liolaemus sarmientoi and Liolaemus magellanicus from Patagonia, Argentina. J. Therm. Biol. 35, 21–27. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtherbio.2009.10.003.
- Inouye, D.W., 2008. Effects of climate change on phenology, frost damage, and floral abundance of montane wildflowers. Ecology 89, 353–362. http://dx.doi.org/ 10.1890/06-2128.1.
- IPCC, 2014. Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In: Field, C. B., Barros, V.R., Dokken, D.J., Mach, K.J., Mastrandrea, M.D., Bilir, T.E., Chatterjee, M., Ebi, K.L., Estrada, Y.O., Genova, R.C., Girma, B., Kissel, E.S., Levy, A.N., MacCracken, S., Mastrandrea, P.R., White, L.L. (eds.). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1132.
- Jordán, J.C., Pérez, J. 2012. Thermal ecology of Microlophus occipitalis (Sauria: Tropiduridae) in the Plain Dry Forest of Tumbes, Peru. Revista Peruana de Biología, vol. 19: pp. 97–99. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.15381/rpb.v19i1.794.
- Kearney, M., Porter, W.P., 2004. Mapping the fundamental niche: physiology, climate, and the distribution of a nocturnal lizard. Ecology 85, 3119–3131.
- Kearney, M., Shine, R., Porter, W.P., 2009. The potential for behavioral thermoregulation to buffer 'cold-blooded' animals against climate warming. Proc. R. Soc. 106, 3835–3840. http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0808913106.
- MAE, 2013. Modelo Bioclimático del Ecuador Continental para la representación cartográfica de Ecosistemas del Ecuador Continental. In: Melo, P., Herrera, X., Galeas, R., (eds.). Subsecretaría de Patrimonio Natural, Proyecto mapa de vegetación.
- Malcolm, J.R., Liu, C., Neilson, R.P., Hansen, L., Hannah, L.E.E., 2006. Global warming and extinctions of endemic species from biodiversity hotspots. Conserv. Biol. 20, 538–548. http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1523-1739.2006.00364.x.
- Martin, T.L., Huey, R.B., 2008. Why suboptimal is optimal: jensen's inequality and ectotherm thermal preferences. Am. Nat. 171, 102–118. http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/ 527502.
- Meiri, S., Bauer, A.M., Chirio, L., Colli, G.R., Das, I., Doan, T.M., Feldman, A., Herrera, F.-C., Novosolov, M., Pafilis, P., Pincheira-Donoso, D., Powney, G., Torres-Carvajal,

- O., Uetz, P., Van Damme, R., 2013. Are lizards feeling the heat? A tale of ecology and evolution under two temperatures. Glob. Ecol. Biogeogr. 22, 834–845. http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/geb.12053, (DOI: 10.1111/geb.12053).
- Myers, N., Mittermeier, R.A., Mittermeier, C.G., Da Fonseca, G.A., Kent, J., 2000. Biodiversity hotspots for conservation priorities. Nature 403, 853–858. http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/35002501.
- Navarrete, L., 2010. 3.1 bosque protector jerusalem y parque recreacional. where to find birds in ecuador. Consult. Noviembre, 2013 (http://birdsinecuador.com/es/capitulo-3/item/134-31-bosque-protector-jerusalem-y-parque-recreacional).
- Peterson, A.T., Navarro-Siguenza, A.G., Scachetti Pereira, R., 2004. Detecting errors in biodiversity data based on collectors' itineraries. Bull. Br. Ornithol. Club 124, 143–150
- Przybylo, R., Sheldon, B.C., Merilä, J., 2000. Climatic effects on breeding and morphology: evidence for phenotypic plasticity. J. Anim. Ecol. 69, 395–403. http:// dx.doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2656.2000.00401.x.
- R Core Team. 2014. R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. (http://www.R-project.org/).
- Rabatel, A., Francou, B., Soruco, A., Gomez, J., Cáceres, B., Ceballos, J.L., Basantes, R., Vuille, M., Sicart, J.E., Huggel, C., Scheel, M., Lejeune, Y., Arnaud, Y., Collet, M., Condom, T., Consoli, G., Favier, V., Jomelli, V., Galarraga, R., Ginot, P., 2013. Current state of glaciers in the tropical Andes: a multi-century perspective on glacier evolution and climate change. . Cryosphere 7, 81–102. http://dx.doi.org/10.5194/te-7-81-2013.
- Salazar, L.F., Nobre, C.A., Oyama, M.D., 2007. Climate change consequences on the biome distribution in tropical South America. Geophys. Res. Lett. 34. http:// dx.doi.org/10.1029/2007GL029695.
- Sears, M.W., 2005. Geographic variation in the life history of the sagebrush lizard: the role of thermal constraints in activity. Oecologia 143, 25–36. http://dx.doi.org/ 10.1007/s00442-004-1767-0.
- Seebacher, F., Shine, R., 2004. Evaluating thermoregulation in reptiles: the fallacy of the inappropriately applied method. Physiol. Biochem. Zool. 77, 688–695.
- Seebacher, F., Franklin, C.E., 2005. Physiological mechanisms of thermoregulation in reptiles: a review. J. Comp. Physiol. B 175, 533-541. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/ s00360-005-0007-1.
- Sepúlveda, M., Vidal, M.A., Fariña, J.M., Sabat, P., 2008. Seasonal and geographic variation in thermal biology of the lizard *Microlophus atacamensis* (Squamata: tropiduridae). J. Therm. Biol. 33, 141–148. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/ii.therbio.2007.07.002.
- Sinervo, B., Méndez-de-la-Cruz, F., Miles, D.B., Heulin, B., Bastiaans, E., Villagrán-Santa

- Cruz, M., Lara-Resendiz, R., Martínez-Méndez, N., Calderón-Espinosa, M.L., Mezalázaro, R.N., Gadsden, H., Avila, L.J., Morando, M., De la Riva, I.J., Sepúlveda, P.V., Rocha, C.F.D., Ibargüengoytia, N.R., Puntriano, C.A., Massot, M., Lepetz, V., Oksanen, T.A., Chapple, D.G., Bauer, A.M., Branch, W.R., Clobert, J., Sites, J.W., Jr., 2010. Erosion of lizard diversity by climate change and altered thermal niches. Science 328, 894–899. http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1184695.
- Tewksbury, J.J., Huey, R.B., Deutsch, C.A., 2008. Putting the heat on tropical animals. Science 320, 1296–1297. http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1159328.
- Thomas, C.D., Cameron, A., Green, R.E., Bakkenes, M., Beaumont, L.J., Collingham, Y., Erasmus, B.F.N., Ferreira de Siqueira, M., Grainger, A., Hannah, L., Hughes, L., Huntley, B., van Jaarsveld, A.S., Midgley, G.F., Miles, L., Ortega-Huerta, M.A., Townsend Peterson, A., Phillips, L., Williams, S.E., 2004. Extinction risk from climate change. Nature 427, 145–148. http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature02121.
- Torres-Carvajal, O., 2007. A taxonomic revision of South American Stenocercus (Squamata: iguania) lizards. Herpetol. Monogr. 21, 76–178. http://dx.doi.org/10.1655/06-001.1.
- Torres-Carvajal, O., Mafla-Endara, P., 2013. A new cryptic species of *Stenocercus* (Squamata: iguanidae) from the Andes of Ecuador. J. Herpetol. 47, 184–190. http://dx.doi.org/10.1670/11-211.
- Valdecantos, S., Martínez, V., Lobo, F., Cruz, F.B., 2013. Thermal biology of *Liolaemus* lizards from the high Andes: being efficient despite adversity. J. Therm. Biol. 38, 126–134. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtherbio.2012.12.002.
- Van Berkum, F.H., Huey, R.B., Adams, B.A., 1986. Physiological consequences of thermoregulation in a tropical lizard (*Ameiva festiva*). Physiol. Zool., 464–472.
- Vörösmarty, C.J., McIntyre, P.B., Gessner, M.O., Dudgeon, D., Prusevich, A., Green, P., Glidden, S., Bunn, S.E., Sullivan, C.A., Reidy Liermann, C., Davies, P.M., 2010. Global threats to human water security and river biodiversity. Nature 467, 555–561. http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature09440.
- Vuille, M., Francou, B., Wagnon, P., Juen, I., Kaser, G., Mark, B.G., Bradley, R.S., 2008.
  Climate change and tropical Andean glaciers: past, present and future. Earth-Sci.
  Rev. 89, 79–96. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.earscirev.2008.04.002.
- Williams, J.W., Jackson, S.T., Kutzbacht, J.E., 2007. Projected distributions of novel and disappearing climates by 2100 CE. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 104, 5738–5742. http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0606292104.
- Williams, S.E., Shoo, L.P., Isaac, J.L., Hoffmann, A.A., Langham, G., 2008. Towards an integrated framework for assessing the vulnerability of species to climate change. PLoS Biol. 6, 2621–2626. http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0060325.
- Zug, G.R., Vitt, L.J., Caldwell, J.P., 2001. Herpetology. Academic Press, California, Estados Unidos.