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PENSOFT

First record of *Siphlophis compressus* (Daudin, 1803) (Serpentes, Dipsadidae) from the state of Roraima, Brazil

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Abstract
We present the first record of *Siphlophis compressus* from the state of Roraima, Brazil. This report, from the Serra do Tepequém, extends this species' distribution in Brazil by 789 km to the northwest of the nearest previous locality recorded (Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil).

Key words
Amazon rainforest, geographical distribution, Amajari.

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Introduction

Snakes of the genus *Siphlophis* Fitzinger, 1843 (Dipsadidae, Xenodontinae, Pseudoboini) are distributed in Central and South America (Duellman 1978). The genus currently comprises seven species: *S. ayauma* Sheehy, Yanéz-Muñoz, Valencia and Smith, 2014, *S. cervinus* (Laurenti, 1768), *S. compressus* (Daudin, 1803), *S. leucocephalus* (Günther, 1863), *S. longicaudatus* (Andersson, 1901), *S. pulcher* (Raddi, 1820) and S. *worontzowi* (Prado, 1940). Species of the genus utilize a wide diversity of habits. *Siphlophis cervinus*, for example, is active at night (Martins and Oliveira 1998) and is semi-arboreal (arboreal data: Martins and Oliveira 1998; terrestrial data: Dixon and Soini 1986), while, *S. leucocephalus* is terrestrial (Argôlo 2004) and diurnal (Alencar et al. 2013, Gaiarsa et al. 2013).

Siphlophis compressus is a semi-arboreal snake (Gaiarsa et al. 2013), which can be found in trees and on the ground (Martins and Oliveira 1998, Bernarde and Abe 2006). This species is specialized in capturing and ingesting lizards (Fraga et al. 2013), but occasionally feeds on anurans, snakes, lizard eggs, and mammals (Sazima and Argôlo 1994, Martins and Oliveira 1998, Prudente et al. 1998, Marques et al. 2001, Alemu and Rowley 2008, Alencar et al. 2013).

Siphlophis compressus has a wide distribution in South America, occurring from Bolivia to Trinidad. In Brazil it occurs in 2 forested biomes, Amazonia and Atlantic Forest, encompassing 14 Brazilian states: Amazonas, Acre, Rondônia, Pará, Amapá, Mato Grosso, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Bahia, Sergipe,

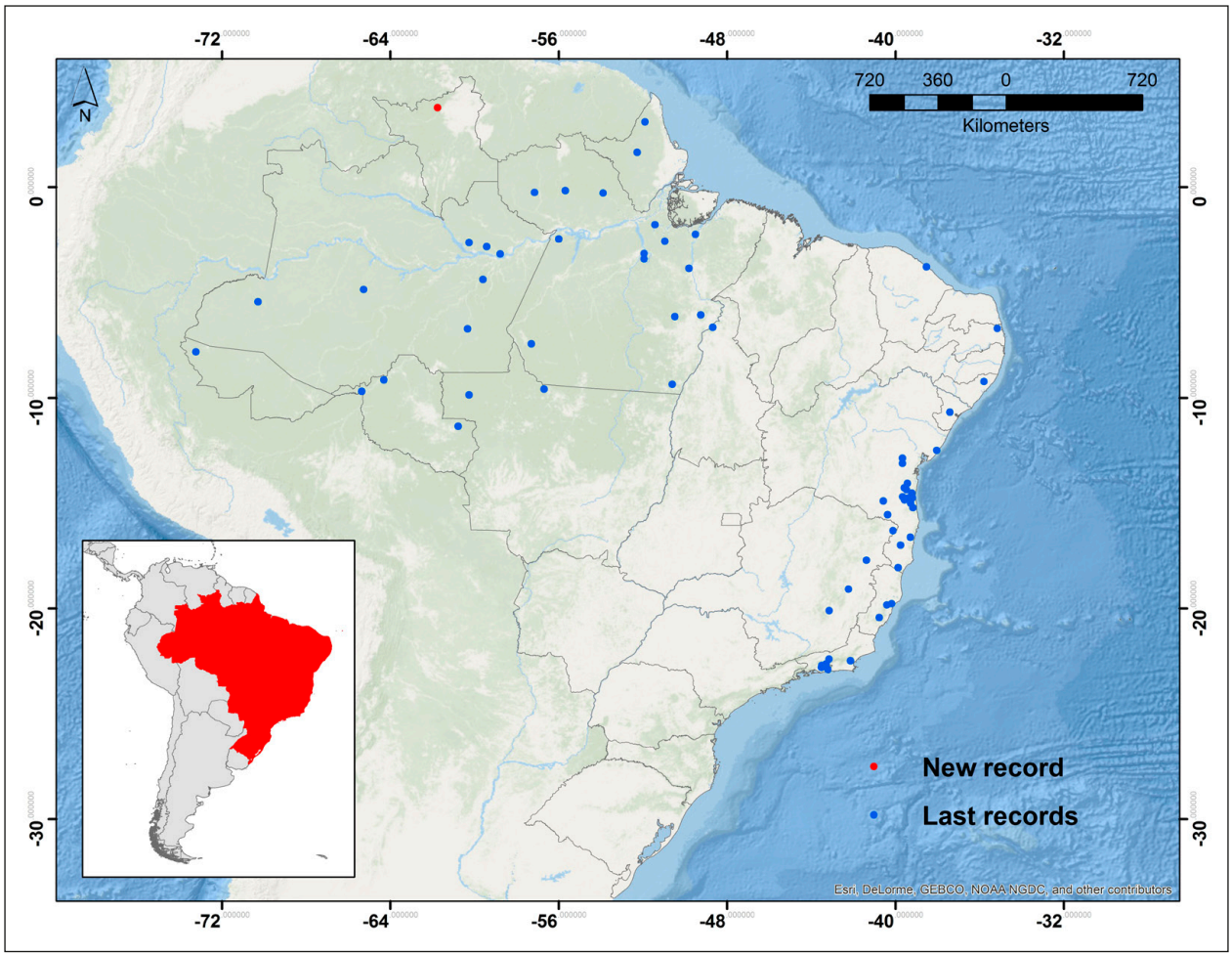

Figure 1. Geographic distribution map of *Siphlophis compressus* in Brazil according to Guedes et al. (2011), with additions made by Marques et al. (2013) and Freitas (2014).

Alagoas, Paraíba and Ceará, altough in Ceará, only 1 record is known (from a humid area of city of Fortaleza; Guedes et al. 2011).

In this study, we present the first record of *S. compressus* from the state of Roraima, which also represents an additional record from the Amazon Forest. This new record extends the distribution of *S. compressus* about 789 km to the northwest of the city Manaus, Amazonas (Fig. 1) (Guedes et al. 2011).

Methods

On 10 August 2015, at 8 pm, we found an individual of *S. compressus* (Fig. 2) foraging on the forest ground of Serra do Tepequém (03.7683, –061.7602, datum WGS84, elev. 620 m, in municipality of Amajari, state of Roraima, Brazil. The Serra do Tepequém is composed of a flat plateau, located in the northwestern region of Roraima, with altitudes ranging from 600 to 1200 m above sea level. Its vegetation types comprises open areas (fields, savannas and valleys), surrounded by continuous patches of Amazon Forest.

After we photographed the specimen, we collected it (Collection permit SISBIO 7422-1). The voucher specimen is housed in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP 22598). During the capture, the individual vibrated its tail as a defensive display, as previously reported by Fraga et al. (2013) and Gaiarsa et al. (2013).

Results

Siphlophis compressus is easily distinguished from its congeners and other similar taxa because its reddish coloration on the back and head, and the transverse black stripes, as already verified by Fraga et al. (2013). These basic characteristics make it unique and easily identifiable. Furthermore, our specimen also has the characteristics described by Savage (2002), and Guedes et al. (2011): head distinct from the neck; moderately long tail (20–24% of total length); large eyes; 8 or 9 supralabials, with 1 or 2 bordering the orbit; 9 infralabials; 2 postoculars; temporals patterns composed of (2 + 3) or (2 + 2 + 3); smooth dorsal scales (19/19/15) with 2 apical pits; 228–258 ventrals; and 110–125 subcaudals.

Discussion

Guedes et al. (2011) mentioned that *S. compressus* may be endangered in many regions, although widely distributed

Figure 2. Specimen of *Siphlophis compressus* collected at Serra do Tepequém (03.7683, –061.7602), in the city of Amajari, Roraima, Brazil.

and abundant in some localities (MAF pers. obs.). Our record, the first from the state of Roraima, extends this species' distribution northwest by 789 km in the Amazon Forest domain. Thus, *S. compressus* is an inhabitant of almost all Brazilian states that are inserted in the Amazonia biome, except for Maranhão (Guedes et al. 2011). Surveys of the herpetofauna and related studies in the state of Roraima are scarce (Carvalho 2009), and we suggest that further studies are urgently needed in Roraima in order to improve our knowledge about the chorology of Amazonian snakes.

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Authors' Contributions

All the authors participated in the fieldtrip, found and collected the specimen. MAF and CMM guided the preparation of the manuscript. ADA, ASS and FRO wrote the manuscript. FRO took morphological and meristic data of the specimen. ASS produced the map.

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