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Reptilia, Squamata, Amphisbaenidae, *Amphisbaena brasiliana* (Gray, 1865): range extension

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Amphisbaena brasiliana is a Brazilian endemic amphisbaenid (Bérnils and Costa, 2012) described after a single specimen obtained in the municipality of Santarém, state of Pará (Gray, 1865: 448). Besides the type locality and vicinities (Gans, 1971; Spencer, 2012), the species is known from other three municipalities in the same state: Belém (Gans, 1971), Aveiro (Rio Cupari; Strauch, 1883) and Parauapebas ("Serra dos Carajás"; Cunha et al., 1985). Two vouchered but imprecise additional records from localities along the "rio Amazonas" (Amazon River), and one undocumented record for Paraíba do Norte, state of Paraíba, were mentioned by Gans (1971), but this latter record was considered by that author as "questionable". The species has also been found in Guarantã do Norte, extreme north of the state of Mato Grosso (Mott and Vieites, 2009; Pinna et al., 2010), the southernmost record until now.

Herein we report three new municipality records for *Amphisbaena brasiliana* in the states of Pará and Mato Grosso which greatly extend the known distribution of this species. In addition, we provide data on habitats and a photo of a live specimen (Figure 1). Specimens were collected under IBAMA/SISBIO permits # 02001.000822/2008-71 and # 19518-1, and voucher specimens are deposited at *Coleção Zoológica de Vertebrados*, *Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso* (UFMT; Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil). Records accessed through the HerpNET (Spencer, 2012) data portal are held in the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA).

In December 2006, a single individual of *Amphisbaena brasiliana* (UFMT 7785) was found in a semi-deciduous forest in the right margin of the reservoir of the hydroelectric power plant Cabeça de Boi, Rio Cabeça de Boi, municipality of Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso (10º 19' S, 56º 58' W). In October 2009, another individual (UFMT 8477) was found in an alluvial semi-deciduous forest on the left margin of the reservoir of

Figure 1. Live specimen of *Amphisbaena brasiliana* from the municipality of Guarantã do Norte, state of Mato Grosso, Brazil.

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the hydroelectric power plant Teles Pires, Rio Teles Pires, municipality of Jacareacanga, Pará (09º 18' S, 56º 46' W). In February, 2010, a third individual (UFMT 9880) was found buried 3 cm below the surface, in an open enclave of hyperseasonal savanna (a kind of wet field, characterized and treated as "parque de cerrado" in Brasil, 1982), surrounded by semidecidual forest and gallery forest, on the right margin of Rio Camarinha, at Estação Ecológica da Serra das Araras, municipality of Porto Estrela, Mato Grosso (15º 38' S, 57º 12' W).

The record for Porto Estrela extends the distribution of *Amphisbaena brasiliana* ca. 1,500 km southwestwards of the type locality, and 650 km from the southernmost previously known locality for the species, Guarantã do Norte (Figure 2). Porto Estrela is situated in a transitional area between Amazonia and the open Cerrado and Pantanal formations, while Guarantã do Norte, Alta Floresta, and Jacareacanga are Amazonian sites.

The occurrence of *A. brasiliana* in mosaic landscapes was previously mentioned by Castro-Mello (2003). Although not yet fully understood, the ability to cross ecological barriers between quite distinct environments was also observed in *Amphisbaena fuliginosa* Linnaeus, 1758 (Vanzolini, 2002; Lemos and Facure, 2007), already found in rain forest, open savannas, and even in anthropogenic habitats.

Knowledge of amphisbaenid distribution in Brazil has increased at a fast pace in the last decade, mostly due to new environmental protocols. During hydroelectric power plant and transmission lines' construction, biologists must now closely monitor vegetation suppression and the filling of reservoirs. Amphisbaenids obtained during these operations are usually destined for scientific research and sent to zoological collections. As a consequence, several new records of amphisbaenids were published in recent years (e.g., Mott et al., 2008; Strüssmann and Mott, 2009; Silva et al., 2010), and known distributions of several species are now wider than previously thought. At the same time that we are getting a better understanding of amphisbaenids' distribution, however, we are certainly facing a reduction the original ranges of many species, mainly as a result of landscape alteration.

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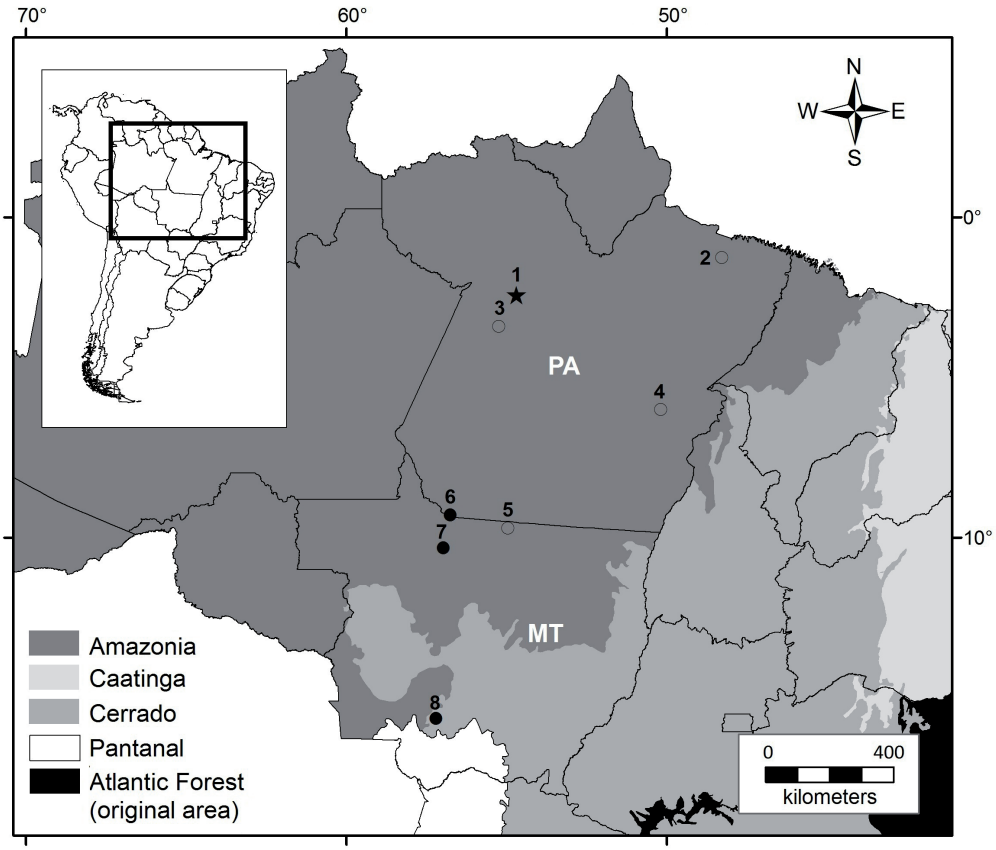

Figure 2. Known distribution of *Amphisbaena brasiliana* in the Brazilian states of Pará (PA) and Mato Grosso (MT). Star – type-locality, Santarém (1); open circles – literature records (from Gans, 1971; Cunha et al., 1985; Mott and Vieites, 2009): Belém (2), Rio Cupari, Aveiro (3), Carajás (4), and Guarantã do Norte (5); closed circles – records from the present report: Jacareacanga (6), Alta Floresta (7) and Porto Estrela (8).

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