

# Squamata, Serpentes, Viperidae, *Bothrocophias hyoprora* (Amaral, 1935): Distribution extension in the state of Acre, northern Brazil

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**ABSTRACT:** The Amazonian toadheaded pitviper *Bothrocophias hyoprora* (Amaral, 1935) is known from Brazil (states of Amazonas and Rondônia), Colombia, eastern Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. We report the first record of this species from the state of Acre (Brazil) in the Serra do Divisor National Park. This record extends the species distribution in 540 km to the southwest of Tabatinga, state of Amazonas, which was the nearest record of this species in Brazilian Amazon.

The genus *Bothrocophias* (Gutberlet and Campbell 2001) comprises five species occurring in northwestern South America in mesic forests such as lowland rainforest and wet montane forests, including cloud forest (Campbell and Lamar 2004). Two species of this genus are recorded from Brazil: *B. hyoprora* and *B. microphthalmus* (Cope, 1876) (Campbell and Lamar 2004). *Bothrocophias hyoprora* can be distinguished from *B. microphthalmus* by the presence of a more upturned snout (vs. less upturned), having most of the subcaudals undivided (vs. most divided), and having a tendency towards fewer ventrals (118–143 vs. 137–168) (Campbell and Lamar 2004). The current geographic range of *Bothrocophias hyoprora* includes the low elevation equatorial forests of the Amazon Basin in Colombia, eastern Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and western Brazil in the Amazonas and Rondônia states (Campbell and Lamar 2004). This species is recognized to have a smaller body size (rarely exceeding 80 cm in total length), and



**FIGURE 2.** Female specimen of *Bothrocophias hyoprora* in lateral view (UFACF 4003) from Parque Nacional da Serra do Divisor, State of Acre, Brazil. Photograph by PSB.



**FIGURE 1.** Female specimen of *Bothrocophias hyoprora* in dorsal view (UFACF 4003; snout–vent length = 255 mm, tail length = 43 mm) from Parque Nacional da Serra do Divisor, State of Acre, Brazil. Photograph by PSB.

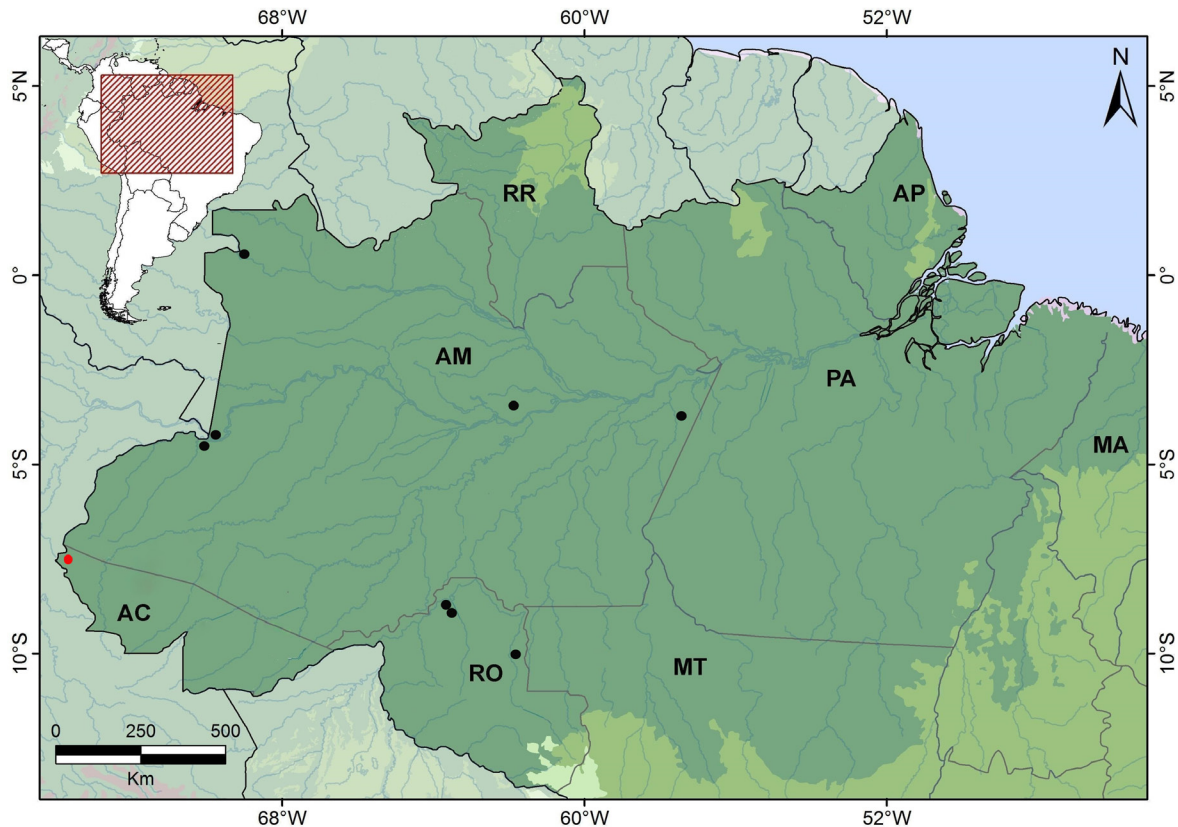
is terrestrial and nocturnal (Campbell and Lamar 2004; Cisneros-Heredia *et al.* 2006). The diet of *B. hyoprora* consists of centipedes, frogs, lizards and rodents (Martins *et al.* 2002). In this study, we present a new record for *B. hyoprora*, extending its geographic distribution to include the state of Acre, Brazil.

On 14 February 2011, one individual (subadult female) of *Bothrocophias hyoprora* (Figures 1, 2) was collected in the Serra do Divisor National Park (07°26'17" S, 73°39'34" W, WGS-84, 230 m elevation; Figure 3), located at the northwest of state of Acre, in Upper Juruá region, Amazonia, Brazil. The specimen (total length = 298 mm; female) was found coiled on leaf litter at night (23:00 h) in primary forest (Figure 1). The individual agrees with the diagnostic features of *B. hyoprora* presented in Amaral (1935) and Campbell and Lamar (2004), including: supralabials 8/8 (left/right side), infralabials 10/9, dorsal scale rows 21/23/19 (near the head/midbody/near the cloaca), ventrals 138, anal plate single, subcaudals 48 (most

of which are undivided). This record extends the species distribution by 540 km to the southwest of Municipality of Tabatinga, state of Amazonas, which is the nearest record of this species in the Brazilian Amazon (Neill 1966). The specimen was deposited in the herpetological collection of the Federal University of Acre - Campus Floresta (Voucher specimen = UFACF 4003).

This species may be rare in some regions (Iquitos, Peru; Samuel Hydroelectric Power Plant, Rondônia, Brazil;

Silva-JR 1993; Campbell and Lamar 2004), and is thought to be more common in eastern Ecuador (Campbell and Lamar 2004). Studies conducted on snakes in the Upper Juruá (state of Acre) recorded other species of viperids (*Bothriopsis bilineata*, *Bothrops atrox* and *Lachesis muta*) (Avila-Pires et al. 2009; Turci et al. 2009; Silva et al. 2010; Bernarde et al. 2011); however, *B. hyoprora* was not recorded, and appears to be rare in this region.



**FIGURE 3.** Known records of *Bothrocophias hyoprora* in Brazilian Amazonia. Red circle = Serra do Divisor National Park, state of Acre (this study). Black circle = Literature data (Prado 1938/39; Hoge 1949; Neill 1966; Silva-JR 1993; Bernarde et al. 2008). AC = Acre, AM = Amazonas, RO = Rondônia. Map by Mário R. Moura.

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