

New record and distribution extension of *Atractus paraguayensis* Werner, 1924 (Serpentes: Dipsadidae)

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ABSTRACT: The dipsadid ground snake, *Atractus paraguayensis*, occurs in Southern Brazil, Southern Paraguay and Argentina. In this study, we report the most austral record of the species in Brazil, based on a specimen captured in Capão do Leão, in the campus of the Universidade Federal de Pelotas. This extends the species geographical distribution 354 km – south, of Colorado, Brazil, the most austral record of the species until now.

The ground dipsadid snakes genus, *Atractus* comprise nearly 140 cryptozoic and semi-fossorial species, most of them rare and with restrict distributions known only for the holotype (Passos and Fernandes 2008; Prudente and Passos 2008; Passos and Arredondo 2009; Passos *et al.* 2009 a,b,c,d,e,f, Passos *et al.* 2010). Thirty four species are known to occur in Brazil (Bérnills 2010), with four recorded to Rio Grande do Sul: *A. paraguayensis* Werner, 1924, *A. reticulatus* (Boulenger 1885), *A. thalesdelemai* Passos, Fernandes and Zanella, 2005, and *A. zebrinus* (Jan 1862) (Passos *et al.* 2010).

Atractus paraguayensis a small sized species (maximum SVL of 490mm) fossorial snake, known from Cascavel (24°56'S, 53°27'W) in the state of Paraná, Brazil, southward to Villa Urquiza (31° 39'S, 60°22'W) in the province of Entre Rios, Argentina (Passos *et al.* 2010).

In this study, we report the southernmost record of *A. paraguayensis* (CHR 023) in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, based on a specimen from Capão do Leão municipality (31°46'19" S 52°20'34" W), collected in 2001 by workers of the Universidade Federal de Pelotas (UFPEL), however, the method used for collection and euthanasia are unknown. We identified two possible southernmost registers of the species in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, based on the examination of specimens and literature. The first one is a specimen housed in the Coleção de Répteis da Universidade de Passo Fundo, from Pinheiro Machado (CRUPF 257, 31°34'40" S 53°22'51" W) and the other, is housed in the same collection, from Colorado (CRUPF 196, 28°31'26" S 52°59'38" W). However, the specimen of Pinheiro Machado (CRUPF 257) need to be interpreted with cautious due to the possibility of reference to the Pinheiro Machado village (29°41'58.22" S 53°51'49.62" W), from the municipality of Santa Maria, where the authors observed the specimen of *Atractus paraguayensis* (Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, ZUFMS 2646). So we did not consider the specimen from of Pinheiro Machado (31°34'40" S 53°22'51" W) as a possible southernmost record, which was also the approach adopted in the study of Passos *et al.* (2010) when delineating a distribution map

of *A. paraguayensis*. The possibility of the specimen mark being overlapped by another specimen in the distribution map being discarded, considering that in the revision of Passos *et al.* (2012), the specimen (CRUPF 257) was the only one labeled as being from Pinheiro Machado.

The specimen CHR 023 (Figure 1) is male, and has 15/15/15 dorsal scale rows, two postocular scales, moderately sized loreal scale, 1+2 temporal scales, seven infralabial scales, seven infralabial scales, three gular scale rows, 146 ventral scales and 32 subcaudal scales, head length of 16mm, snout-vent length of 318mm and tail length of 46mm. Dorsum olive, with a single bluish vertebral line and venter is immaculate cream. This is the southernmost record of *A. paraguayensis* in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, and, therefore, Brazil, extending the species

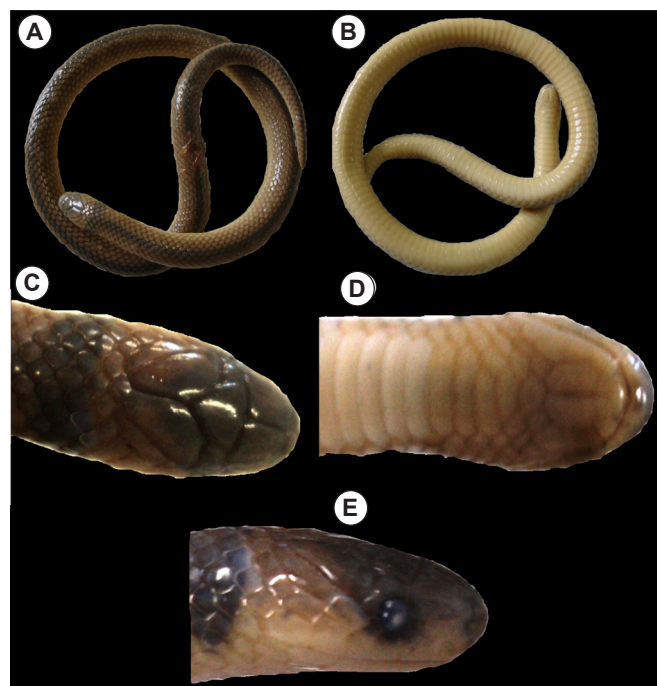


FIGURE 1. Head views of the specimen (CHR 023) of *A. paraguayensis*, collected in Capão do Leão, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

distribution 354 km – south of the previous southernmost locality- in the municipality of Colorado (Figure 2). This species also was registered to the locality of Corrientes, Argentina. Our record helps to delineate the distribution of

A. paraguayensis, showing that, the Northern and Central portion of Uruguay and Northern Corrientes in Argentina are distribution gaps that probably require more sampling effort.

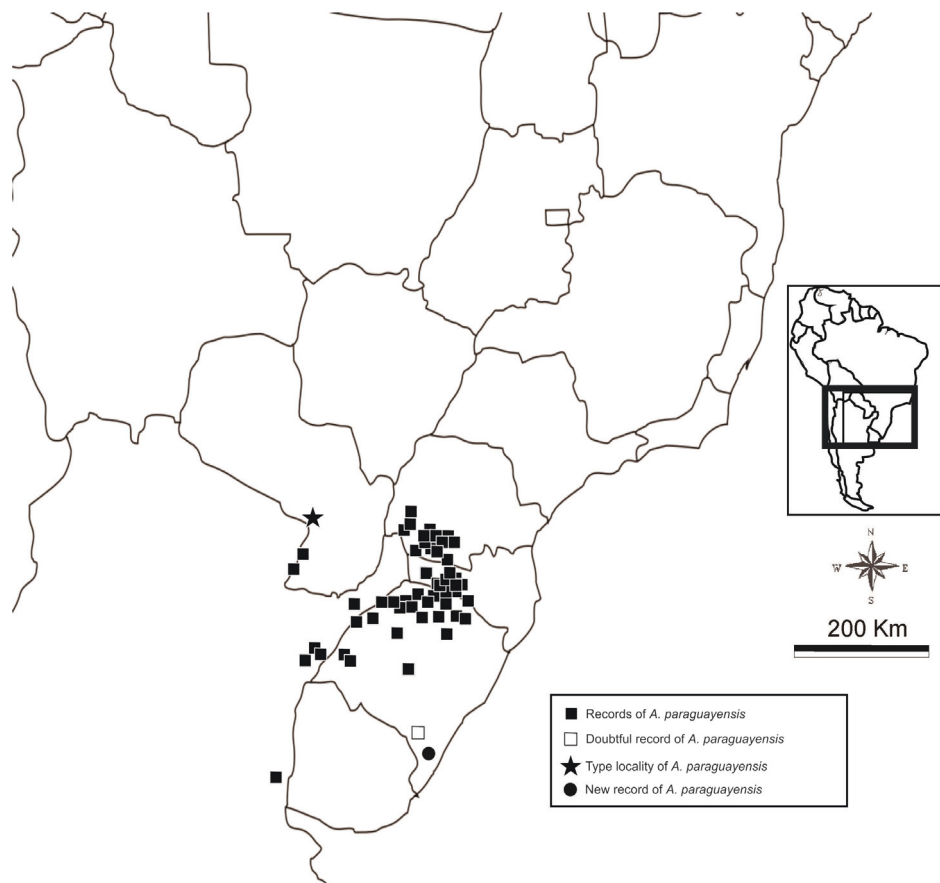


FIGURE 2. Distribution map of the species, made based on literature records of Passos et al (2012) and examined specimens from the collections ZUFMS and CHR.

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ERRATUM

According to Noeli Zanella (pers. comm.), curator of the Amphibian and Reptile collections of Universidade de Passo Fundo, **1)** the specimen CRUPF 257 labeled as from “Pinheiro Machado” by Passos *et al.* (2010) and us, was collected in Pinheiro Marcado, Carazinho (28°17'02" S, 52°47'11" W); **2)** The correct label of the specimen from Colorado is CRUPF 1196, not CRUPF 196.

Finally, we inform that in-text citations of Passos *et al.* (2012) should be read as Passos *et al.* (2010).

We regret these errors.

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