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Erythrolamprus oligolepis (Boulenger, 1905) (Serpentes: Dipsadidae): First record for the state of Acre, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: We present the first record of *Erythrolamprus oligolepis* for the state of Acre, Brazil, which extends the species distribution by approximately 560 kilometers from Jaci-Paraná in the state of Rondônia, Brazil.

We provide the first record of *Erythrolamprus oligolepis* for the state of Acre, Brazil. One specimen was collected at Seringal Etelvi, Reserva Extrativista Chico Mendes, Brasiléia, state of Acre, Brazil (Datum SAD69 10°45'05" S 69°18'15" W). This record extends the distribution of the species by 560 km west from Jaci-Paraná in the state of Rondônia, Brazil (Datum SAD69 09°13'S, 63°30'W) (Nascimento et al., 1988).

Erythrolamprus oligolepis is a small dipsadid snake known from the southern portion of the Amazon River, recorded in the states of Maranhão, Pará and Rondônia in Brazil, as well as in Peru (Cunha and Nascimento1993; Silva-Jr 1993; Frota *et al.* 2005). It has terrestrial habits, living in damp places, in preserved forests, secondary forests and degraded areas, and feeding on frogs (Cunha and Nascimento 1993).Taxonomic confusion regarding this species has already been addressed by Dixon (1983) who placed it as a synonym of *Liophis reginae semilineata*. However, Cunha and Nascimento (1993) examined 43 individuals from the eastern portion of Pará and western Maranhão and found that the species *Leimadophis oligolepis* should be a valid species. In the same paper, the authors presented the difference between *Erythrolamprus reginae* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *E.oligolepis*, the former with a series of 17-17-15 dorsal scales and vent with small spots on dark vertical bars, and the latter with a series of 15-15-15 or 15-15-14 dorsal scales and a yellowish, entirely spotless, ventral region. Another similar species would be *Erythrolamprus typhlus* which presents a series of 19-19-15 dorsal scales and a spotless ventral region (Cunha and Nascimento 1993).

There are still some disagreements about the taxonomic validity of *Erythrolamprus oligolepis*, with many authors considering it as a subspecies of *Erythrolamprus reginae* (e.g. Dixon, 1983, Martins and Oliveira, 1998, Duellman, 2005; Albarelli and Santos-Costa,2010). However, we understand the alternative proposal that considers *E. oligolepis* a valid taxon, as the most reasonable, as adopted by many other authors (e.g. Nascimento *et al*., 1988; Cunha and Nascimento, 1993; Silva Jr., 1993; Fleet *et al*.,2005 and Grazziotin *et al*. 2012), and based on the quite distinct morphology between *E. oligolepis*, *E. reginae* and *E. typhlus*, demonstrated by Cunha and Nascimento (1993). The dorsal color pattern of the collected specimen has characteristics, described below, which agree with that found by Cunha and Nascimento (1993) which allowed the authors to identify the species as *Erythrolamprus oligolepis.*

During fieldwork in the Reserva Extrativista Chico Mendes conducted between October/2011 and October/2012, we collected one single specimen of *Erythrolamprus oligolepis* (Figure 1). The specimen was captured using pitfall traps with 40 buckets (100 liters), placed in a plantation of "cupuaçu" *Theobroma grandiflorum*, "pupunha" *Bactris* sp, "açaí" *Euterpes* sp, and rubber trees *Hevea brasiliensis* - from Seringal Etelvi. The specimen (UFAC 0477) is deposited in the Coleção de

FIGURE 1. *Erythrolamprus oligolepis* (UFACF 0477) collected in the Reserva Extrativista Chico Mendes, Acre, Brazil (Photo by Marco Antonio de Freitas).

Herpetologia of the Universidade Federal do Acre, Campus Rio Branco in the municipality of Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil. The permit number 25261-1 was provided by SISBIO/ICMBio – Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade. The collected specimen presents 15-15-15 dorsal scales and the ventral region entirely yellow and spotless. This is the first record of this species in the state of Acre, Brazil, which extends the species distribution by approximately 560 kilometers from Jaci-Paraná in the state of Rondônia (Nascimento *et al.* 1988). So far, specimens were only recorded south of the Amazon River, there being records of this species in Maranhão, Pará, Rondônia and Acre in Brazil and Loreto, in Peru (Cunha and Nascimento 1993; Silva-Jr 1993) (Figure 2).

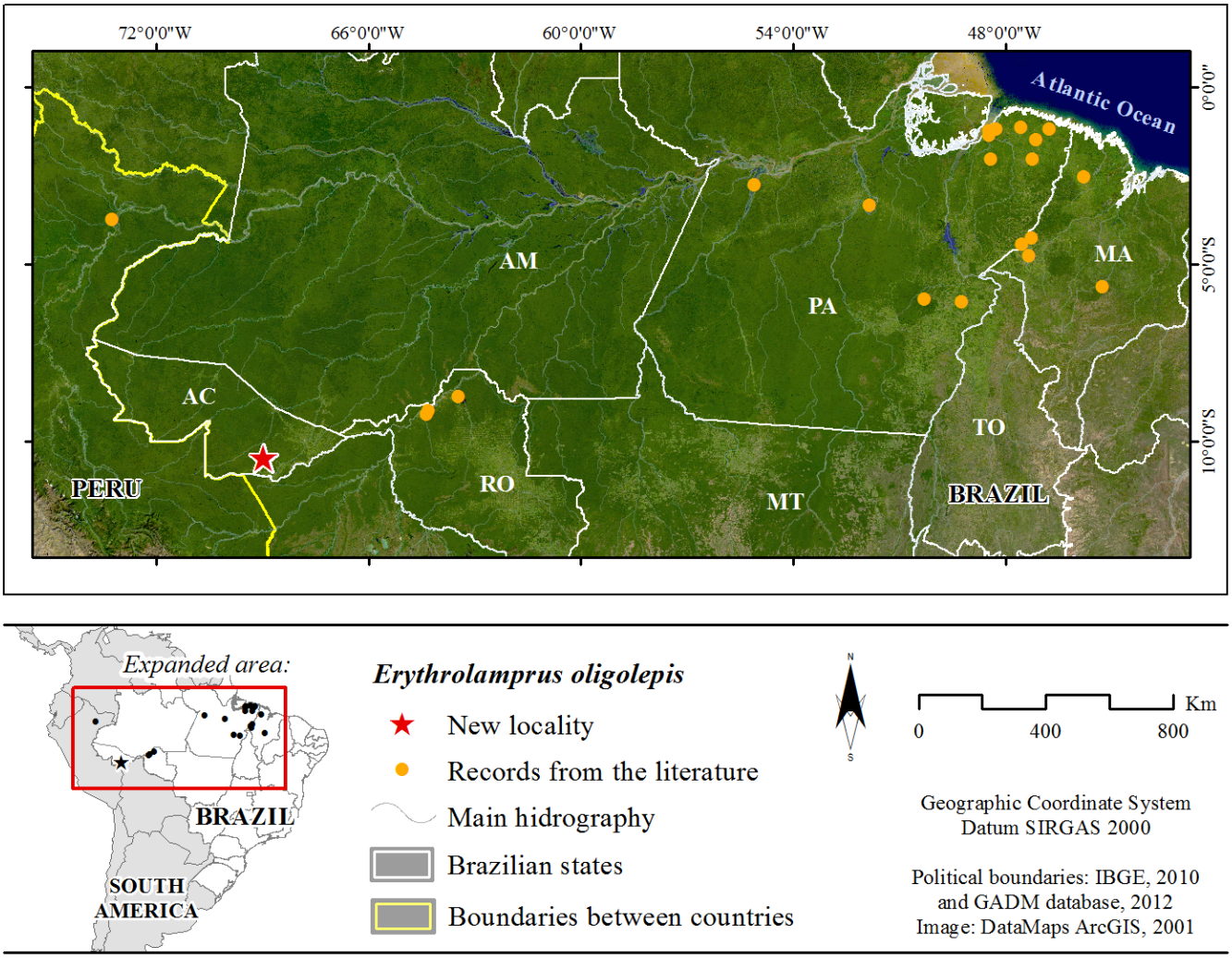

Figure 2. Map indicating the localities showingthe known distribution of *Erythrolamprus oligolepis*. Records from the literature are indicated by orange dots and the new locality by a red star.

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