NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Squamata, Serpentes, Viperidae, Bothrops lutzi: distribution extension, geographic distribution map

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The family Viperidae comprises 28 species in Brazilian territory, with 23 of them belonging to the genus Bothrops Wagler, 1824 (Bérnils 2009). The Bothrops neuwiedi complex presents an ambiguous taxonomic status and seven species Bothrops diporus Cope, 1862, B. lutzi (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1915), B. marmoratus Silva and Rodrigues, 2008, B. mattogrossensis Amaral, 1925, B. neuwiedi Wagler, 1824, B. pauloensis Amaral, 1925, and B. pubescens (Cope, 1870) have been formerly recognized so far (Silva 2004; Silva and Rodrigues 2008).

The distribution of B. lutzi is known to central eastern Brazil, which includes Minas Gerais, Bahia, Goiás, Tocantins, Piauí, and Ceará states (Lira-da-Silva et al. 2003; Silva 2004; Borges-Nojosa and Cascon 2005; Freitas and Silva 2007). Here, it is presented a new record for B. lutzi extending its geographic distribution northward in relation to the previous reported. Also, an updated distribution map is proposed for the species.

From February 2007 to November 2007, I found 5 specimens (four females, one male) of B. lutzi (Figure 1) in the Chapada da Ibiapaba (Plateau of Ibiapaba) between Ubajara and Tianguá municipalities (03°53’29.4” S, 41°04’30.7” O; 796 m above sea level). The Ibiapaba’s plateau is a rocky arenitic formation in the frontier of Piauí and Ceará states, belonging to the Caatinga Biome (sensu Ab’Saber, 1977). The physiognomy where the specimens were found is classified as Dry Dense Bush Forest, locally known as Carrasco, and can be basically characterized as a Forest zone with medium sized trees, up to 4 meters high, where the loss of leaves is higher than 70% during the dry season (June-December). The snout-vent length of the individuals varied from 34 to 72 cm.

A voucher specimen was deposited in the herpetological collection of the Universidade Federal da Paraíba (UFPB 4506). Collecting permits were granted by Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis - IBAMA (# 267/2006).

This finding is the first record for the species in the Ibiapaba’s plateau, extending the species’ range in ca. 140 km north, in a straight line from the previous report at Brejo Santo municipality, in Southern Ceará (Figure 2; Borges-Nojosa and Cascon 2005). Considering that in Ceará this species is registered only in dry forests located in high altitudes (700 m above sea level) in the border with state of Piauí, it is likely that Ibiapaba’s plateau represents the northern limit in the distribution of B. lutzi in Brazilian’s territory. Therefore, the current distribution knowledge for B. lutzi should be considered as presented in Figure 2.

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Figure 1. Specimens of *Bothrops lutzi* found in the present study with their main color patterns and some diagnostics characters. A-C) General view of adult females with snout-vent length of 72.0, 45.2, and 59.0 cm respectively; D) Head detail; E) Ventral color pattern of a juvenile female (SVL = 34 cm); and F) Hemipenis of an adult male SVL = 52.8 cm).
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Figure 2. Altitudinal distribution map of Bothrops lutzi indicating the previous known localities (blue circles) and the present record (red square).

Literature cited

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