

Six new or important departmental herpetological records for Paraguay

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The recent completion of national treatises on the distributions of reptiles (Cacciali *et al.* in review) and amphibians (Lavilla and Brusquetti 2010, Weiler *et al.* 2013) in Paraguay represents an important step in our understanding of the herpetological fauna of the country, up until now among the most poorly known on the continent. With the aim of maintaining published data as up to date as possible, three new departmental records (two reptiles and one amphibian) are documented here. Photographic documentation of three additional reptiles, two of which are known only from very few specimen records in the country, are also provided. Our aim is to alert specialists to the presence of these species in these geographic locations, so that formal scientific documentation can be achieved in the future.

Specimens are housed in the Colección Zoológica de Para La Tierra (CZPLT: Para La Tierra Zoological Collection) based at Rancho Laguna Blanca, Departamento San Pedro, and additional images of the species documented photographically are available in the FAUNA Paraguay photographic database which can be consulted online through the links provided here.

SPECIMEN DOCUMENTATION

Erythrolamprus jaegeri (Dipsadidae) (Fig. 1) A freshly dead roadkill specimen at Arroyos y Esteros km 100 access road to Juan de Mena S24°52' W56°53' (CZPLT-H-780; 12 August 2014; Col. P. Smith). First record for Departamento Cordillera. Identification was confirmed by the pholidosis of the specimen: dorsal scale rows without reduction 17-17-17, ventrals 160, subcaudals 68 (Dixon, 1989). The species has been previously documented from departamentos Caaguazú, Caazapá, Canindeyú, Central, Itapúa, Presidente Hayes and San Pedro (Cabral and Weiler 2014, Cacciali *et al.* in review). Additional images of this specimen can be consulted online at <http://www.faunaparaguay.com/erythrolamprusjaegeri.html>.

ABSTRACT

New Paraguayan departmental records are provided for six herptile species, five reptiles *Apostolepis assimilis*, *Erythrolamprus jaegeri*, *Lygophis meridionalis*, *Philodryas agassizii* and *Pseudoeryx plicatilis* (Dipsadidae); and one amphibian: *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus* (Leptodactylidae).

KEY WORDS: *Apostolepis assimilis*, *Erythrolamprus jaegeri*, *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus*, *Lygophis meridionalis*, *Philodryas agassizii*, *Pseudoeryx plicatilis*

RESUMEN

Se proveen nuevos registros departamentales paraguayos para seis especies herpetológicas: cinco reptiles *Apostolepis assimilis*, *Erythrolamprus jaegeri*, *Lygophis meridionalis*, *Philodryas agassizii* y *Pseudoeryx plicatilis* (Dipsadidae); y un anfibio: *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus* (Leptodactylidae).

PALABRAS CLAVES: *Apostolepis assimilis*, *Erythrolamprus jaegeri*, *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus*, *Lygophis meridionalis*, *Philodryas agassizii*, *Pseudoeryx plicatilis*

Lygophis meridionalis (Dipsadidae) (Fig. 2) A freshly dead roadkill specimen found on Ruta 1 (Route 1) at S27°01'54" W56°41'07" (CZPLT-H-844; 4 May 2015; Col. P. Smith). First documented record for Departamento Misiones, though there is a historical citation for Misiones and a photo of uncertain location (Cacciali *et al.* in review). The species has previously been documented from departamentos Amambay, Central, Concepción, Guairá, Ñeembucú, Paraguarí, Presidente Hayes and San Pedro (Cacciali *et al.* in review).

Leptodactylus labyrinthicus (Leptodactylidae) (Fig. 3) Adult male at Rio Verde Agroforestal S23°47' W56°18' (CZPLT-H-780; 13 August 2014; Col. P. Smith, Para La Tierra). First record for Departamento San Pedro. The species has been previously documented from departamentos Alto Paraná, Amambay, Caaguazú, Canindeyú, Concepción, Guairá, Misiones and Paraguarí (Weiler *et al.* 2013). Additional images of this specimen can be consulted online at <http://www.faunaparaguay.com/leptodactyluslabyrinthicus.html>.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Apostolepis assimilis (Dipsadidae) (Fig. 4) An individual found by Matthew Clay and photographed at Fortín Toledo, Departamento Boquerón S24°21' W60°20' by Rob Clay, Viviane Eisenring and Oliver Schneider on 2 April 2015. The species is known only from a single specimen in Paraguay (Museo Ambiental de Itaipú, Vivero Forestal Itaipú Binacional, Hernandarias, Paraguay, MAI 61) from Reserva Tatí Yupí, Departamento Alto Paraná, an area well within the Atlantic Forest ecoregion of Paraguay. The species is however more commonly associated with the Cerrado and Chaco ecoregions (Cacciali *et al.* in review), and the MAI record needs to be re-examined. Additional images can be consulted online at <http://www.faunaparaguay.com/apostolepisassimilis.html>. These photographs confirm the presence of this species in the Paraguayan Chaco.



Fig. 1. Recently dead roadkill specimen (CZPLT-H-781) of *Erythrolamprus jaegeri* (Dipsadidae) Arroyos y Esteros km100 access road to Juan de Mena, Departamento Cordillera. (Photo Paul Smith).



Fig. 3. Live adult male of *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus* (CZPLT-H-780) at Rio Verde Agroforestal, Departamento San Pedro. (Photo Paul Smith).



Fig. 2. Recently dead roadkill specimen (CZPLT-H-844) of *Lygophis meridionalis* (Dipsadidae) Ruta 1, Departamento Misiones. (Photo Paul Smith).



Fig. 4. Live adult of *Apostolepis assimilis* from Fortín Toledo, Departamento Boquerón. (Photo Oliver Schneider).

Philodryas agassizii (Dipsadidae) (Fig. 5) An individual photographed on a road 4 km east of Laguna Capitán S $22^{\circ}31'$ W $59^{\circ}38'$, Departamento Presidente Hayes by Paul Smith on 4 April 2015. Identification was confirmed from the photograph and by the presence of 13 mid-dorsal scale rows (Fig. 6). This species is previously known only from a single specimen in Paraguay (MN-HNP 9534) which lacks any collection data (Cacciali *et al.* in review). Thus this observation represents the first specific locality for the species in Paraguay. Additional images can be consulted online at <http://www.fau-naparaguay.com/philodryasagassizii.html>.

Pseudoeryx plicatilis (Dipsadidae) (Fig. 7) A decapitated specimen of this distinctive species was photographed at Arroyos y Esteros km 100 access road to Juan de Mena S $24^{\circ}52'$ W $56^{\circ}53'$ on 15 March 2015 by Rob Clay. The specimen could be safely identified on the basis of its distinctive body shape and coloration. First record for Departamento Cordillera. The species has been previously documented from departamentos Alto Paraguay, Central, Ñeembucú and San Pedro (Cacciali *et al.* in review).

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Fig. 5. Live adult of *Philodryas agassizii* from 4km east of Laguna Capitán, Departamento Presidente Hayes. (Photo Paul Smith).

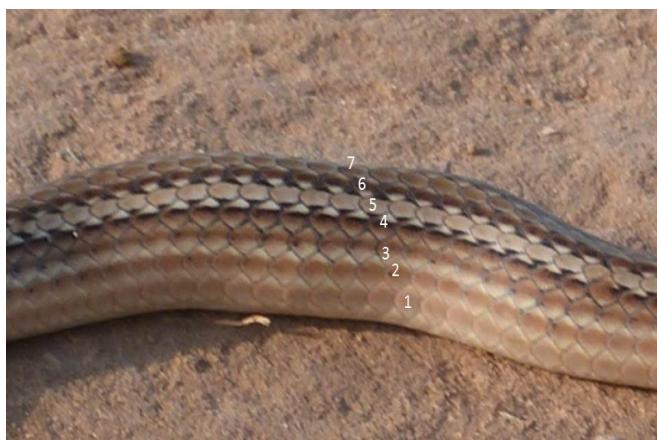


Fig. 6. Close up of mid-body scale rows from same image as Fig. 5 confirming the presence of 13 rows (7 scale rows visible including the vertebral row), a diagnostic character for this species in Paraguay. (Photo Paul Smith).



Fig. 7. Decapitated adult of *Pseuderyx plicatilis* Arroyos y Esteros km100 access road to Juan de Mena, Departamento Cordillera. (Photo Rob Clay).

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