

Rediscovery and geographic distribution of *Philodryas agassizii* (Jan, 1863) (Squamata: Dipsadidae) in the state of Paraná, Southern Brazil

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Resumo

Redescoberta e distribuição geográfica de *Philodryas agassizii* (Jan, 1863) (Squamata: Dipsadidae) no estado do Paraná, Sul do Brasil. *Philodryas agassizii* (Dipsadidae) ocorre no Brasil, Argentina e Uruguai; no Brasil, conta com registros em áreas abertas das regiões Nordeste, Centro-Oeste, Sudeste e Sul. No estado do Paraná, ela apresenta registros antigos no sudeste do estado. Relatamos, aqui, a redescoberta de *P. agassizii* no Paraná, quarenta anos após o último registro, e revisamos sua distribuição no estado, incluindo a região centro-sul.

Palavras-chave: Estepe; Mata Atlântica; Philodryadini; Serpentes

Abstract

Philodryas agassizii (Dipsadidae) occurs in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay; in Brazil, it has been recorded in open areas of the regions Northeast, Central-West, Southeast and South. In the state of Paraná, it has only old records in southeastern of the state. We report, here, the rediscovery of *P. agassizii* in Paraná, forty years after the last record, and review its distribution within the state, including the central-south region.

Key words: Atlantic Forest; Philodryadini; Snakes; Steppe

Philodryas Wagler, 1830 is a Neotropical snake genus currently consisting of twenty species distributed throughout South America (PETERS; OREJAS-MIRANDA, 1986; ZAHER et al., 2008; UETZ; HOSEK, 2013). *Philodryas agassizii* (Jan, 1863) had been formerly allocated to the genus *Pseudablades* by Boulenger (1896), but it has been moved to *Philodryas* by Zaher et al. (2009). The species is distinguished from

other Philodryadini due to a combination of 13 dorsal midbody scale rows, small body size, and diet specialized in arthropods (PETERS; OREJAS-MIRANDA, 1986; MARQUES et al., 2006). It occurs in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay (PETERS; OREJAS-MIRANDA, 1986; GIRAUDO; SCROCCHI, 2002; ACHAVAL; OLMOS, 2003; MARQUES et al., 2006). In Brazil, *P. agassizii* may be found in open areas in the states of

Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul, as well as in Distrito Federal (MARQUES et al., 2006; GHIZONI JR. et al., 2009). Recently, it has also been recorded in northeastern Brazil, in the state of Bahia (HAMDAN; LIRA-DA-SILVA, 2012).

In the state of Paraná, *Philodryas agassizii* has two records in the literature: one for the municipality of Palmeira and another for “Nova Restinga” (a locality in the municipality of Porto Amazonas) (MARQUES et al., 2006). We consulted the most representative Brazilian herpetological collections with reptiles from the state of Paraná: Departamento de Zoologia da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Instituto Butantan (IBSP), Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (MCP), Museu de Ciências Naturais da Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul (MCN), Museu de História Natural Capão da Imbuia (MHNCI), Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP), Museu Nacional da Universidade Federal do Rio de

Janeiro (MNRJ), Setor de Zoologia da Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (ZUFMS), Universidade de Passo Fundo (CRUPF); and a further record of the species was added to the neighboring municipality of Ponta Grossa (Appendix 1). These three localities are located in southeastern Paraná, within the Atlantic Forest biome, and they are characterized by Steppe phytophysiognomy (RODERJAN et al., 2002). All previous records of *P. agassizii* from Paraná are old, the last one dating from 1971 (voucher IBSP 32632).

During field-work in the municipality of Pinhão, one individual of *Philodryas agassizii* (SVL = 230 mm; tail length = 90 mm; 8.0 g; male; Figure 1) was found on November 8 2011, in the morning, crossing a road between wheat plantations (25°40'50"S, 51°57'32"W; 865 m a.s.l.). The individual was collected (permit IBAMA number 073/2010) and deposited in the herpetological collection of the Museu de História Natural Capão da Imbuia at Curitiba, Paraná (MHNCI 14273). Identification was based on Peters and Orejas-Miranda (1986).

FIGURE 1: *Philodryas agassizii* found in the municipality of Pinhão, Paraná, Southern Brazil (MHNCI 14273).



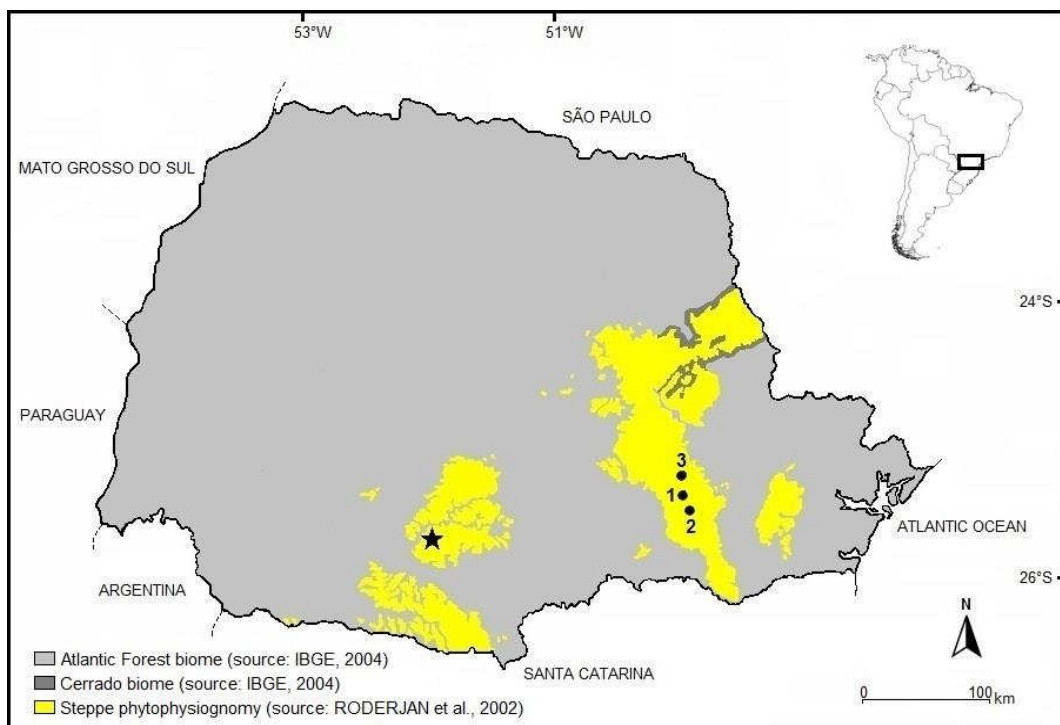
This record represents the rediscovery of *Philodryas agassizii* in Paraná 40 years after the last record and it expands the occurrence of this species for the central-south region of the state, about 200 km westward from the closest previously known site (Figure 2). The municipality of Pinhão is within the Atlantic Forest biome, and it is characterized by Steppe phytophysiology, corroborating the distribution pattern previously observed for the species in the state of Paraná.

Marques et al. (2006) and Winck et al. (2007) indicate that *Philodryas agassizii* is very demanding with regard to habitat quality; however, the site of this record and the surrounding areas of Pinhão are very disturbed, dominated by large plantations. This apparent contradiction suggests that this species uses plantations on a transient basis to move between patches of suitable habitats and that *P. agassizii* must have some resilience to poor habitat quality.

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FIGURE 2: Records of *Philodryas agassizii* in the state of Paraná, Southern Brazil.



Numbers refer to previous records (literature and museum): 1. Palmeira; 2. Nova Restinga, Porto Amazonas; 3. Ponta Grossa. The star indicates the new occurrence, in the municipality of Pinhão, central-south region of Paraná.

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Appendix 1

All known records and available vouchers of *Philodryas agassizii* from Paraná, Southern Brazil.

Nova Restinga, municipality of Porto Amazonas: IBSP 20896. Palmeira: IBSP 10247, 10479, 10480, 15947, 15995. Pinhão: MHNCI 14273. Ponta Grossa: IBSP 32632; MCN 3349.