

First record of *Nectocaecilia petersii* (Boulenger, 1882) (Gymnophiona: Typhlonectidae) for the state of Acre, Brazil

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Locality: Brazil, Acre, Cruzeiro do Sul, Universidade Federal do Acre, 7°33'35" S; 72°43'3.2" W (Fig. 1). Marllus Rafael Negreiros de Almeida, 13/01/2020. UFACF 4398. Coleção de Herpetologia da Universidade Federal do Acre, Campus Floresta (UFACF).

Comments: Typhlonectidae Taylor, 1968 includes 14 species of aquatic and semiaquatic caecilians distributed along the South American hydrographic systems (Taylor, 1968; Maciel *et al.*, 2015). Four species are present in the Amazon Basin, two of them, *Potamotyphlus kaupii* (Berthoulet, 1859) and *Typhlonectes compressicauda* (Duméril and Bibron, 1841) have long been known by science to be widely distributed (Taylor, 1968; Cintra *et al.*, 2010; Maciel and Hoogmoed, 2011; Oliveira *et al.*, 2012; Alves-Silva *et al.*, 2017). Up to 2011, *Atretochoana eiselti* (Taylor, 1968) was known by only two specimens

with no refined collection data, but it was discovered in at least three great Amazonian rivers, which indicates it can be of wide distribution as well (Hoogmoed *et al.*, 2011; Vaz-Silva *et al.*, 2015). Finally, *Nectocaecilia petersii* (Boulenger, 1882) was recently recorded in the Tapajós sub-basin, considerable far from the three localities where it was known before (Fraga *et al.*, 2018).

On 13 January 2020, at 5 PM, Marllus Rafael Negreiros de Almeida found a caecilian in the campus of the Universidade Federal do Acre (7°33'35" S; 72°43'3.2" W), municipality of Cruzeiro do Sul, state of Acre, Brazil. The caecilian was found moving in a muddy soil 6 meters from a small stream, and when approached tried quickly to hide its head below rotten leaves and trunks in the mud. It also released mucus from its skin when handled. The place is 6,4 km from the left margin of the Moa River and 10 km from the left margin of the Juruá River. The specimen (Fig. 2) is an adult male with total length 530 mm and was catalogued as UFAC 4398 in the Herpetological Collection of Universidade Federal do Acre, Campus Floresta, Cruzeiro do Sul. We identified the specimen as Typhlonectidae by its dorsoventrally compressed head, dorsal eyes, and well-marked cloacal disc (Taylor, 1968; Wilkinson and Nussbaum, 1999). Furthermore, the caecilian presents all conditions on external characters to fit within the diagnosis of *Nectocaecilia petersii*: 145 primary grooves, dark primary grooves, cylindrical body, and absence of a "dorsal fin" (Maciel and Hoogmoed, 2011).

Our register was made approximately 1000 km southwestern far from the closest known occurrence of the species, in Uarini, Amazonas, Brazil (Figure 1), and it is the first record of *Nectocaecilia* to the region of the Juruá Sub-basin, and to the state

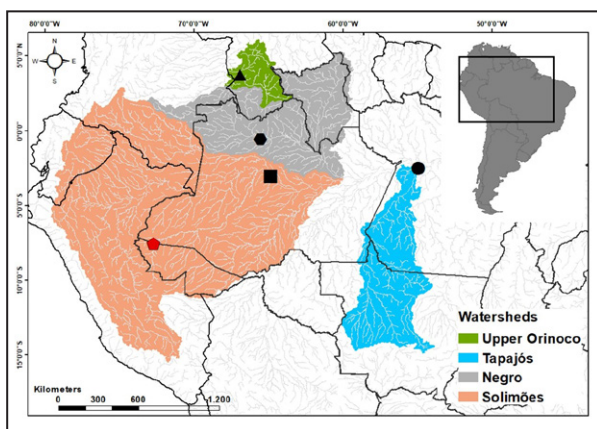


Figure 1. Distribution map of *Nectocaecilia petersii*. Pentagon represents the new locality record in the state of Acre, Brazil. Triangle represents Cerro Yapacana, Venezuela (Gorzula and Señaris, 1998). Hexagon represents Rio Tea, Amazonas, Brazil (Maciel and Hoogmoed, 2011). Square represents Mamirauá, Uarini, Amazonas, Brazil (Maciel and Hoogmoed, 2011). Circle represents Alter do Chão, Pará, Brazil (Fraga *et al.*, 2018).



Figure 1. Alive specimen of *Nectocaecilia petersii* found in Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil. Left, under leaves. Right, in muddy soil.

of Acre, Brazil. This discovery reinforces that *N. petersii* can be widely distributed in Amazonia, probably being just less common than *P. kaupii* and *T. compressicauda*, which are more numerous in scientific collections (Maciel and Hoogmoed, 2011). In fact, elements that drive demographic dynamics in populations of caecilians remain unknown, especially when referring to aquatic species.

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