

## NOVEDAD ZOOGEOGRÁFICA

**TAENIOPHALLUS POECILOPOGON**  
(COPE, 1863) (SERPENTES:  
DIPSADIDAE): FILLING A GAP ON  
ITS KNOWN DISTRIBUTION IN  
ARGENTINA

**CAMILA FALCIONE**

Laboratorio de Herpetología. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura. Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, CP 3400 Corrientes, Argentina.

camilafalcione@hotmail.com

**RODRIGO CAJADE**

Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral – CONICET. Ruta Provincial 5 km 2,5, CP 3400 Corrientes, Argentina.

rodrigocajade@hotmail.com

**DIEGO ANDRÉS BARRASSO**

Laboratorio de Ecología Molecular, Centro Regional de Estudios Genómicos, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Av. Calchaquí km 23,5 Piso 4, CP 1888 Florencio Varela, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

diegobarrasso@gmail.com

**SANTIAGO JAVIER NENDA**

División Herpetología, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales «Bernardino Rivadavia» – CONICET. Ángel Gallardo 470, C1405DJR Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

santiagojnenda@yahoo.com.ar

**Locality.**— Argentina, Provincia de Entre Ríos, Departamento La Paz, Ruta Provincial # 6, 8.5 km east from Colonia Máximo Castro (30°53'45" S; 59°34'43" W) (Fig. 1). An adult female found under fallen tree bark next to the route. Date: 23/08/2009. Col: Cajade R. and C. Falcione. Deposited in the Herpetological Collection of Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales «Bernardino Rivadavia» (MACN 40270).

**Comments.**— The genus *Taeniophallus* Cope comprises a group of small terrestrial dipsadids, ranging from Guyana and Colombia to Argentina (Myers and

Cadle, 1994). *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* occurs in southern Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay (Koslowsky, 1898; Devincenzi, 1925; Peters and Orejas Miranda, 1970; Myers, 1974; Abalos and Mischis, 1975; Di Bernardo and Lema, 1987; Di Bernardo, 1992; Cei, 1993; Gonzáles and Hamilton, 1998; Achaval-Elena, 2001; Giraudo, 2001; Giraudo and Scrocchi, 2002; Achaval and Olmos, 2003; Carreira *et al.*, 2005). *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* was rediscovered in Argentina after 143 years in the provinces of Buenos Aires (Nenda and Di-Pietro, 2009) and Corrientes (Etchepare and Zaracho, 2009). Additional reliable record for the country, also supported by voucher specimen deposited in a herpetological collection, comes from Buenos Aires province (Jan and Sordeilli, 1866). There are three other records of the species for the country that are considered doubtful. Berg (1898) mentioned two specimens of *T. poecilopogon* of uncertain origin. One of these specimens possibly came from Entre Ríos (collected by Adolfo Doering 25 years before the publication of Berg's paper) and apparently was housed in the Herpetological Collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales «Bernardino Rivadavia», MACN. The other specimen came from Corrientes or Misiones provinces, housed in the «Gabinete de Historia Natural de la Universidad». Unfortunately ongoing curatorial efforts on both collections failed to find the specimens and they should be considered lost for the time being (Nenda and Di-Pietro, 2009; and this study). Freiberg (1939) reported *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* for Entre Ríos province, without reference to a voucher specimen, and possibly referring to the material mentioned by Berg (1989).

In the present contribution we report the first specimen of *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* from Entre Ríos province, with voucher specimen and complete

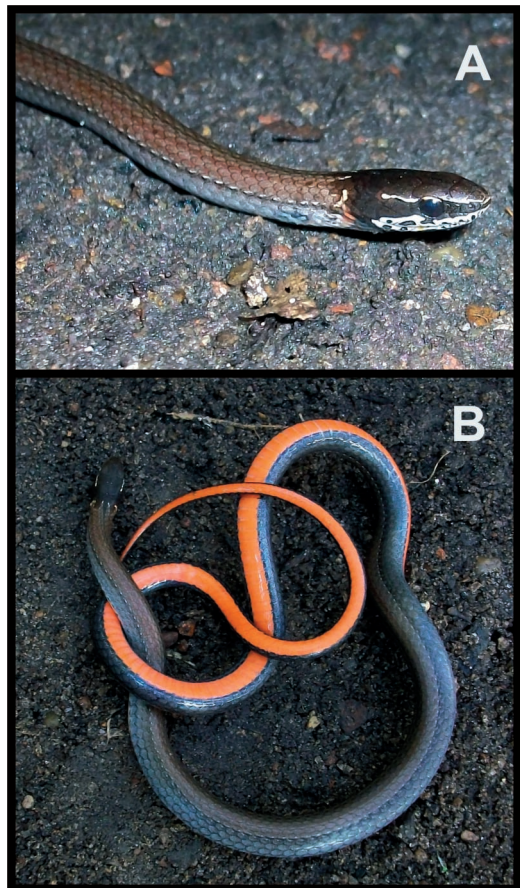
data. Bilateral scale counts are separated by a solidus as right/left. Specimen MACN 40270 (Fig. 2) has 485 mm of body length, 108 mm tail length representing 18% of total length, has 17 smooth dorsal scales without reduction and without apical pits, 168 ventrals, cloacal plate divided, 71+1 subcaudals, 6/7 supralabials 3<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> entering the orbit, 1/1 loreals in contact with second supralabial, nine infralabials in the right side (six of them in contact with chin shields) and eight infralabials in the left side (five in contact with chin shields), one preocular and two postoculars, and 1+2 temporal scales.

The collected specimen was kept in

captivity for 38 days and during this period it fed on frogs, such as *Pseudopaludicola falcipes* and *Scinax nasicus*, and lizards, such as *Cercosaura schreibersi*. Di Bernardo and Lema (1987) reported that one specimen of *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* also fed on *Cercosaura schreibersi*, but it didn't show interest to eat offered frogs such as *Scinax fuscovaria*, *Physalaemus lisei*, and *Elachistocleis bicolor*. Etchepare and Zaracho (2009) also found skin and limbs that belonged to *Dendropsophus* sp. in the stomach of a road kill specimen from Corrientes province. The locality where specimen MACN 40270 was collected is a rural zone that belongs to the Ñandubay dis-



**Figure 1.** Distribution of *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* in Argentina. Black circle: previous known localities. Star: new record from Colonia Máximo Castro, Departamento La Paz, Entre Ríos province, Argentina (MACN 40270).



**Figure 2.** *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* (MACN 40270) in life from Entre Ríos province, Argentina. A: lateral view, B: dorsal and ventral view.

trict in the Espinal phytogeographic province (Cabrera, 1976). This district is characterized by a semixerix forest, with *Prosopis affinis* (Ñandubay) and *Prosopis nigra* as predominating species, and also by palm trees such as *Butia yatay* and *Thitrix campestris*. The ambient where the collected specimen was found, correspond to a patch of this semixerix forest modified by livestock activity.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Carlos Reula for kindly hosting us during the surveys, to E. Etchepare and D. Di-Pietro for support bibliography, and A. Hernando and J. Faivovich for their corrections and comments on the manuscript.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- ABALOS, J. W. & C. C. MISCHIS. 1975. Elenco sistemático de los ofidios argentinos. *Boletín Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Córdoba* 51 (1-2): 55-76.
- ACHAVAL-ELENA, F. 2001. Actualización sistemática y mapas de distribución de los reptiles del Uruguay. *Smithsonian Herpetological Information Service* 129: 1-37.
- ACHAVAL, F. & A. OLMOS. 2003. Anfibios y Reptiles del Uruguay. 2da Edición corregida y ampliada. Montevideo: Graphis Impresora. 136 pp.
- BERG, C. 1898. Contribuciones al conocimiento de la fauna erpetológica argentina y de los países limítrofes. *Anales del Museo Nacional de Buenos Aires* 6: 1-35.
- CABRERA, A. L. 1976. Regiones fitogeográficas argentinas. *Enciclopedia Argentina de Agricultura y Jardinería* 2 (1): 1-85.
- CARREIRA, S.; M. MENEGHEL & F. ACHAVAL. 2005. Reptiles de Uruguay. Montevideo: D.I.R.A.C. Facultad de Ciencias. Universidad de la República. 639 pp.
- CEI, J. M. 1993. Reptiles del noroeste, noreste y este de la Argentina. *Herpetofauna de las selvas subtropicales, Puna y Pampas*. Torino: Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali. Monografía XIV. 949 pp.
- DEVINCENZI, G. J. 1925. Fauna erpetológica del Uruguay. *Anales del Museo de Historia Natural de Montevideo, Serie II* 2: 1-65.
- DI-BERNARDO, M. & T. DE LEMA. 1987. O gênero *Rhadinaea* Cope, 1863, no Brasil meridional. I. *Rhadinaea poecilopogon* Cope, 1863 (Serpentes, Colubridae). *Acta Biologica Leopoldensia* 9 (2): 203-224.
- DI-BERNARDO, M. 1992. Revalidation of the genus *Echinanthera* Cope, 1894, and its conceptual amplification (Serpentes, Colubridae). *Comunicações do Museu de Ciências da PUCRS, série Zoologia* 5 (13): 225-256.
- ETCHEPARE, E. G. & V. H. ZARACHO. 2009. Serpentes, Colubridae, *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* (Cope, 1863): Rediscovery in Corrientes, Argentina, and natural history. *Check List* 5 (4): 770–773.
- FREIBERG, M. A. 1939. Enumeración sistemática de los reptiles de Entre Ríos y lista de los ejemplares que los representan en el Museo de Entre Ríos. *Memorias del Museo de Entre Ríos, Zoología* 11: 1-28.
- GIRAUDO, A. R. 2001. Serpientes de la Selva Paranaense y del Chaco Húmedo. Buenos Aires: L.O.L.A. 328 pp.
- GIRAUDO, A. R. & G. J. SCROCCHI. 2002. Argentinian snakes: an annotated checklist. *Smithsonian Herpetological Information Service* 132: 1-53.
- GONZÁLEZ, E. M. & S. HAMILTON. 1998. Un nuevo registro de *Echinanthera poecilopogon* (Cope, 1863) (Reptilia: Squamata) en Uruguay.

- Cuadernos de Herpetología* 12 (2): 37.
- JAN, G. & F. SORDELLI. 1866. Iconographie générale des ophiidiens. Atlas. Volume I, Livraison 16. Paris: J. B. Bailliére et Fills.
- KOSLOWSKY, J. 1898. Enumeración sistemática y distribución geográfica de los reptiles argentinos. *Revista del Museo de La Plata* 8: 161-200.
- MYERS, C. W. 1974. The systematics of *Rhadinaea* (Colubridae), a genus of new world snakes. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 153: 1- 262.
- MYERS, C. W. & J. E. CADLE. 1994. A New Genus for South American Snakes Related to *Rhadinaea obtusa* Cope (Colubridae) and Resurrection of *Taeniophallus* Cope for the «*Rhadinaea*» *brevirostris* Group. *American Museum Novitates* 3102: 1-33.
- NENDA, J. S. & D. O. DI PIETRO. 2009. Serpentes, Dipsadidae, Echinantherini, *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* (Cope, 1863): Rediscovery in Argentina. *Check List* 5 (3): 503-506.
- PETERS, J. A. & B. R. OREJAS-MIRANDA. 1970. Catalogue of Neotropical Squamata. Part I. Snakes. Washington D.C.: *Bulletin of U.S. Natural Museum*. 347 pp.