



A second species of *Brasilotyphlus* (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) from Brazilian Amazonia

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Abstract

Brasilotyphlus is rediagnosed in light of the discovery of a second species of the genus, *B. guarantanus* **sp. nov.**, in the municipality of Garantã do Norte, state of Mato Grosso, Brazil. The new species differs from *B. braziliensis* mainly in annular counts, having 151–170 primaries and at most 2 secondaries (instead of 142–147 primaries and 23–36 secondaries).

Key words: Amazonia, Brazil, *Brasilotyphlus*, *B. guarantanus* **sp. nov.**

Resumo

A diagnose do gênero *Brasilotyphlus* é redefinida a partir da descoberta de uma segunda espécie desse gênero, *B. guarantanus* **sp. nov.**, no município de Garantã do Norte, estado de Mato Grosso, Brasil. A nova espécie difere de *B. braziliensis* principalmente nas contagens de anéis corporais, possuindo entre 151 e 170 primários e no máximo dois secundários, enquanto *B. braziliensis* tem de 142 a 147 primários e 23 a 36 secundários.

Palavras chaves: Amazônia, Brasil, *Brasilotyphlus*, *B. guarantanus* **sp. nov.**

Introduction

Brasilotyphlus Taylor, 1968 is a monotypic genus of Brazilian caeciliid, established to accommodate *Gymnopsis braziliensis* Dunn, 1945 from Manaus, Amazonas. Taylor (1968) examined Dunn's type series and considered it generically distinct because of a unique combination of characters, including the maxillary teeth not reaching back to the level of the choanae; vomerine teeth in a compact semicircular series separated by a diastema from the curving rows of palatine teeth, that are situated posteriorly of the choanal level; eye not visible externally, and, if present, solidly covered by skull bones; small tentacles closer to angle of mouth than to nostrils; weak vertical keel on the terminal part of the body.

Until now, there are few museum specimens of *B. braziliensis* from Manaus, Amazonas State, Brazil, most of which are desiccated and flattened, thus hindering accurate measurements (Taylor, 1968). According to recent sources this species would also occur in Amapá and Roraima states (Frost, 2008), and in Pará state (Rodrigues et al, 2004). Its global conservation status is considered as Least Concern (Rodrigues et al, 2004) and was reported to be last seen in 1997. No photographs of live specimens have been published. We find that all records from Amapá, Pará and Roraima states are based on misidentified specimens of *Microcaecilia*. Thus, the distribution of *B. braziliensis* remains restricted to the type locality, Manaus, so that its conservation