



A new species of *Tropidurus* (Squamata, Tropiduridae) of the *semitaeniatus* group from a semiarid area in Northeastern Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Tropidurus* of the *semitaeniatus* group is described from northeastern Brazil. *Tropidurus* **sp. nov.** is morphologically similar to other species of the group in the marked dorsoventral flattening of the body, and the presence of a series of sublabial shields that are larger than the adjacent scales. It is distinguished by a single middorsal longitudinal light stripe that extends from the snout to the scapular region. The new species appears to have the largest body size of the group. The new species inhabits the Vale do Jaguaribe, in the eastern part of the state of Ceará, where there are many fissured rocky outcrops surrounded by hypoxerophytic caatinga vegetation.

Key words: *Tropidurus jaguaribanus* **sp. nov.**, Lizard, Caatinga

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Tropidurus* do grupo *semitaeniatus* é descrita do Nordeste do Brasil. *Tropidurus* **sp. nov.** é morfológicamente semelhante às espécies do grupo *semitaeniatus* quanto ao evidente achatamento dorsoventral do corpo e pela presença de uma série de escudos sublabiais aumentados em relação às escamas adjacentes. Entretanto, pode ser diferenciada por apresentar no meio do dorso uma única faixa clara longitudinal que se prolonga do rostro até a região escapular. Dentre as espécies do grupo, esta parece apresentar o maior porte corpóreo. A nova espécie habita localidades do Vale do Jaguaribe, região leste do Estado do Ceará, onde predominam afloramentos rochosos graníticos fraturados, circundados por caatinga hipoxerófitas.

Palavras chave: *Tropidurus jaguaribanus* **sp. nov.**, Lagartos, Caatinga

Introduction

Brazil has one of the most diverse assemblages of reptiles on the planet, with about 721 species including at least 241 lizards (Bérnils 2010). This great richness, one of the largest on Earth, results not only from the great extent of the country, but also the diversity of ecosystems and the historical events of climatic and geographical changes during the Pleistocene in South America (Rocha 1994).

Tropiduridae is one of families which contains the largest number of known species among the neotropical lizards (Torres-Carvajal 2004). In recent decades, several phylogenetic studies have examined the relationships among these species (Harvey & Gutberlet 2000; Frost *et al.* 2001), although some groups remain poorly studied. In Brazil, there are 35 species of tropidurids, 17 of which belong to the genus *Tropidurus* (Bérnils 2010).

The genus *Tropidurus* Wied, 1820 consists of lizards whose distribution includes the South American mainland east and west of the Andes, and the Galapagos Islands, occurring in open landscapes such as Caatinga, Cerrado,