

Phimophis guerini (Duméril, Bibron and Dumeril, 1854) (Serpentes: Dipsadidae): Distribution extension in Paraíba, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: We provide a new record of *Phimophis guerini* from the Atlantic Forest in Paraíba state and a review of the distribution of the species.

The genus *Phimophis* Cope, 1860 comprises three species of nocturnal, terrestrial and subterranean dipsadid snakes distributed from Panama to Argentina, through Colombia, the Guiana Region and Brazil (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970, Tipton 2005; Grazziotin *et al.* 2012). In Brazil there are two species: *P. guerini* and *P. guianensis*. Both species are restricted to open formations such as Cerrado, Cerrado enclaves in the Amazon region and Caatinga. Here we report the second record of *P. guerini* for the region of Coastal Atlantic Forest (Freitas 2003; Lisboa *et al.* 2011).

During a herpetological inventory from June 2007 to February 2008 at Mata do Açude do Cafundó (07°10'51" S, 35°05'37" W, 91 m), a fragment of Atlantic Forest in the municipality of Cruz do Espírito Santo, Paraíba state, we collected an individual of *Phimophis guerini*. The specimen (Figure 1), a young female, was captured during the night, on the forest floor; and measures 360 mm total length and 60 mm tail length. It has the following scutellation: one loreal, one preocular, two postoculars, eight supralabials (fourth and fifth in contact with the orbit), nine infralabials, 2+3 temporals, 19-19-17 dorsal scale rows, 204 ventrals and 68 single subcaudals. The specimen was collected under permit number 133/06 – IBAMA/RAN issued by IBAMA. The specimen is housed at the Coleção Herpetologica do Departamento de Sistemática e Ecologia da Universidade Federal da Paraíba (UFPB 4796)

One other specimen was found dead on road BR 101 in the municipality of Rio Tinto in June 2009 (07°04'42" S, 34°59'13" W, 88 m). This specimen is housed at Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz (MZUESC 8169).

In Brazil *Phimophis guerini* is distributed in south Piauí, Amazonas, Mato Grosso, south São Paulo and Goiás states (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970). There are others records in Distrito Federal (França *et al.* 2008) and Cerrado enclaves in the Amazon region (França *et al.* 2006). Sawaya *et al.* (2008) reports this snake in the

municipality of Itirapina, São Paulo state. It also occurs in the Atlantic forest of Alagoas (Lisboa *et al.* 2011), Minas Gerais (Recorder and Nogueira 2007), Tocantins (Vitt *et al.* 2005), and Paraná (Bérnils and Moura-Leite 2010). In Bahia state, there are records in Chapada Diamantina (Caatinga domain) (Juncá 2005), and in the municipalities of Mata de São João, Santa Terezinha and Elíseo Medrado (Freitas 2003). In Argentina, *P. guerini* occurs in the provinces of Misiones, Corrientes, Entre Rios, Santa Fe, Chaco, Tucumán and southwestern Córdoba (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970; Tipton 2005). The specimens in this study extend the distribution 360 km northeast of the nearest location in Alagoas (Lisboa *et al.* 2011). All the records mentioned here show that *P. guerini* inhabits primarily open formations but is also found in some regions of Atlantic Forest. Due to its scarcity in herpetological collections (Rodrigues 1993) the distribution of this snake is not completely known.



FIGURE 1. *Phimophis guerini* UFPB 4796 collected in Cruz do Espírito Santo, Paraíba, Brazil

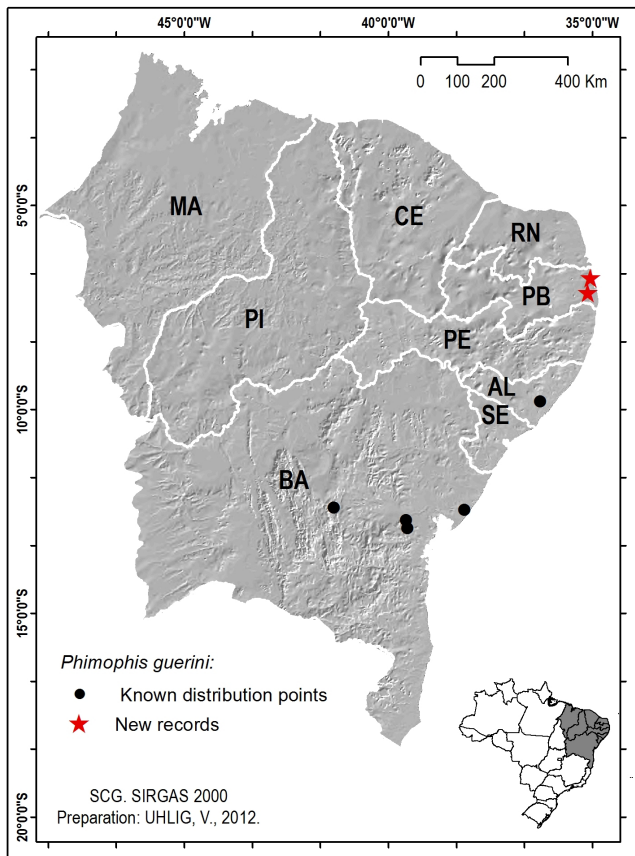


FIGURE 2. Map showing the distribution of *Phimophis guerini* in the coastal region of northeastern Brazil.

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