

# Checklist of the genus *Aparasphenodon* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920 (Anura: Hylidae): Distribution map, and new record from São Paulo state, Brazil

Antonio Mollo Neto<sup>1\*</sup> and Mauro Teixeira Jr.<sup>2</sup>

- 1 Universidade Federal do ABC, Centro de Ciências Naturais e Humanas, Laboratório de Vertebrados. Av. dos Estados 5001, Bloco A, 6° andar D1624. CEP 09210-971. Santo André, SP, Brazil.
  - 2 Universidade de São Paulo, Instituto de Biociências, Departamento de Zoologia. Rua do Matão, Travessa 14, Nº 102. Caixa Postal 11.461. CEP 05422-970. São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- \* Corresponding author. E-mail: [mollonetoa@gmail.com](mailto:mollonetoa@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT:** The distribution of the genus *Aparasphenodon* is mapped and we report the southernmost record of *Aparasphenodon brunoi* from São Paulo state, Brazil.

The genus *Aparasphenodon* (Casque-headed frogs) was originally described by Miranda-Ribeiro (1920) with *A. brunoi* as the type species. In the same publication the author also described *Corythomantis apicalis* from Espírito Santo (Brazil). Five years later, Lutz (1925) described *C. adspersa*, from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Both *C. apicalis* and *C. adspersa* were later synonymized with *A. brunoi* by Carvalho (1941). No type locality was originally provided by Miranda-Ribeiro (1920) for *A. brunoi*, but the matter was cleared later as the specimens were obtained from Rio de Janeiro (Miranda-Ribeiro 1955).

Five decades later the genus was still monotypic and Trueb (1970), after a morphological assessment of *Aparasphenodon*, placed *Corythomantis venezolana*, described by Mertens (1950), in the genus *Aparasphenodon*. This revealed a substantial disjunct distribution, as *Aparasphenodon brunoi* occurs in the Atlantic Forest of eastern Brazil and *A. venezolanus* in the Amazon forest of southern Venezuela.

After approximately two decades, a new species from a more southern part of the Atlantic Forest, *Aparasphenodon bokermanni*, was described (Pombal 1993). And a few years ago the last known species (*A. arapapa*) was described from the northernmost limit of *Aparasphenodon* range along the Atlantic Forest, in coastal Bahia (Pimenta *et al.* 2009).

The most conspicuous feature among *Aparasphenodon* species is the strongly co-ossified skin skull, especially in *A. brunoi*, a character that seems to be related to phragmotic behavior and may provide extra protection while hiding inside bromeliad tanks and bamboo holes (Teixeira *et al.* 2002; Mesquita *et al.* 2004).

Here we provide an updated distributional map of *Aparasphenodon* species compiled from the literature, online databases (ZUEC, MBML and CFBH collections were accessed through SpeciesLink web portal, vouchers not examined) (SpeciesLink 2011), and museum specimens from the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São

Paulo (MZUSP) (Tables 1-4). Additionally, we report the southernmost record of *A. brunoi* from São Paulo state, Brazil.

The distribution of the genus can be summarized as follows: *Aparasphenodon venezolanus* is found in the Amazon forest of southwestern Venezuela, eastern Colombia and northern Brazil, and is known only from a few localities (Table 1) along the Rio Negro basin; *A. arapapa* is known from a few localities only (Table 2), in the Atlantic Forest, between Paraguaçu and Jequitinhonha rivers, in Bahia state; *A. bokermanni* is also known only from a few localities (Table 3) in the subtropical Atlantic Forest of southern São Paulo and Santa Catarina states, and is expected to occur in the geographically intermediate state of Paraná, although no individuals have been recorded there yet; *A. brunoi* is widely distributed over the Atlantic Forest, and is reported from several localities (Table 4) between northern coastal São Paulo state and Bahia (Figure 1).

Sazima and Cardoso (1980), and later Gioia and Souza-Lima (1988) recorded *Aparasphenodon brunoi* in the restingas of Lázaro beach, Ubatuba municipality, in São Paulo state. More than twenty years have passed and no other locality of *A. brunoi* in São Paulo state has been recorded.

In August 2009 we collected, a juvenile male of *Aparasphenodon brunoi* (snout-vent length 41.1 mm) (Figure 2), which was found immobile inside an epiphytic bromeliad, 50 cm above the ground, at about 20:00 h, on the border of a small *restinga* forest fragment, no longer than 200 m, in Caraguatuba municipality, coastal São Paulo state (23°39'26.6" S, 45°25'56.62" W, WGS 84, 5 m a.s.l.). Our record confirms that *A. brunoi* is still present in the area, and represents the second locality for the species in São Paulo, as well as the southernmost locality of its distributional range, extending it approximately 35 km southwestwards along the coast of São Paulo (Figure 3).

The specimen was euthanized using a lethal dose of

anesthetics, fixed in 10% formalin, preserved in 70% alcohol (ICMBio permit number I4555-3), and deposited in the herpetological collection of Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo (MZUSP 149809).



FIGURE 1. Geographic distribution map of *Aparasphenodon* species.

Although very common in coastal *restingas* and some inland forests in the northern part of its distribution, *Aparasphenodon brunoi* seems to be relatively rare at the southern end of its distribution, although ground and epiphytic bromeliads are very abundant in that area. This local rarity could be related to subtropical conditions, which cause lower temperatures along the coastal plain, thus working as a putative physiological barrier. Recently substantial populations of the collared lizard *Tropidurus torquatus* (Sena *et al.* 2008) and of an anole lizard (the authors, unpublished data) have been found on the northern São Paulo coast, where despite large previous sampling efforts they had never been recorded, (or only from a few specimens). This southern expansion was hypothesized to be related to global warming, allowing those lizards to disperse southwards and colonize new regions that they could not reach before (Sena *et al.* 2008).

It is difficult to evaluate whether the occurrence of *Aparasphenodon brunoi* south of Ubatuba is a recent expansion or the result of increased herpetofaunal sampling efforts. However habitat destruction is certainly shrinking the species distribution. The area in Caraguatatuba where we found the specimen is a small circular fragment of *restinga* forest, no more than 200 m long, and not connected with any larger continuous piece of forest. The collection locality is concealed within a highly populated region where most of the original habitat has been completely removed.

TABLE 1. Localities for *Aparasphenodon venezolanus*.

LOCALITY	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
Brazil, AM, PARNA Jau <sup>1</sup>	01°54'45" S	61°35'20" W	Neckel-Oliveira and Gordo (2004)
Colômbia, Guainia, Caño Caiman (parte alta) <sup>1</sup>	03°37'20" N	67°57'7" W	Lynch and Ramírez (2000)
Colômbia, Guainia, Caño Caiman (parte baja) <sup>1</sup>	03°39'16.5" N	67°57'8.5" W	Lynch and Ramírez (2000)
Colômbia, Guainia, La Ceiba <sup>1</sup>	03°37'53.2" N	67°52'51.1" W	Lynch and Ramírez (2000)
Venezuela, Amazonas, Cano Caname <sup>2</sup>	03°35'57.31" N	67°10'36.17" W	Paolillo and Cerda (1981)
Venezuela, Amazonas, Cano San Miguel <sup>2</sup>	02°40'35.76" N	66°56'26.93" W	Paolillo and Cerda (1981)
Venezuela, Amazonas, San Fernando de Atabapo <sup>2</sup>	04°3'7" N	67°42'6" W	Mertens (1950)

Coordinates: 1=as given in the publication; 2=from city town; 3=obtained through Google Earth software.

TABLE 2. Localities for *Aparasphenodon arapapa*.

LOCALITY	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
Brazil, BA, Cairu, Faz. Subaúma <sup>1</sup>	13°31'0" S	39°2'60" W	Pimenta <i>et al.</i> (2009)
Brazil, BA, Ituberá, APA Pratigi <sup>1</sup>	13°43'60" S	39°1'0" W	Pimenta <i>et al.</i> (2009)
Brazil, BA, Marau <sup>2</sup>	14°6'55.54" S	38°59'35.76" W	Freitas <i>et al.</i> (2011)
Brazil, BA, Una, Acuípe <sup>3</sup>	15°12'57.23" S	38°59'40.04" W	ZUEC-AMP 16646

Coordinates: 1=as given in the publication; 2=from city town; 3=obtained through Google Earth software.

TABLE 3. Localities for *Aparasphenodon bokermanni*.

LOCALITY	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
Brazil, SP, Cananeia, PE Ilha do Cardoso <sup>1</sup>	25°4'20.11" S	47°54'56.54" W	Pimenta <i>et al.</i> (2009)
Brazil, SC, Guarimirim <sup>2</sup>	26°28'24.64" S	49°0'12.21" W	Woehl and Woehl (2003)
Brazil, SP, Iguape, EE Juréia Itatins <sup>3</sup>	24°29'35.71" S	47°12'21.78" W	Pombal (1993)
Brazil, SP, Itanhaém, Cidade Santa Julia <sup>3</sup>	24°10'59.07" S	46°47'21.75" W	MZUSP 56409

Coordinates: 1=as given in the publication; 2=from city town; 3=obtained through Google Earth software.

TABLE 4. Localities for *Aparasphenodon brunoi*.

LOCALITY	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
Brazil, BA, Canavieiras, Faz. Montecristo <sup>2</sup>	15°40'40.44" S	38°56'55.54" W	Silvano and Pimenta (2003)
Brazil, BA, Porto Seguro, Arraial D'Ajuda <sup>3</sup>	16°29'23.76" S	39°4'58.06" W	MBML-Anfibios 2358
Brazil, BA, Porto Seguro, Caraíva <sup>3</sup>	16°48'0" S	39°8'60" W	CFBH 13285.0
Brazil, BA, Porto Seguro, PARNA Pau Brasil <sup>3</sup>	16°30'49.54" S	39°15'48.14" W	Silvano and Pimenta (2003)
Brazil, BA, Porto Seguro, RPPN Veracel <sup>3</sup>	16°23'13.38" S	39°8'45.9" W	Pimenta <i>et al.</i> (2009)
Brazil, BA, Porto Seguro, Trancozo <sup>1</sup>	16°37'43.21" S	39°5'37.29" W	Rocha <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Brazil, BA, Una, ESEX Lemos Maia <sup>1</sup>	15°18'0" S	39°4'60" W	Argôlo (2000)
Brazil, ES, Aracruz <sup>2</sup>	19°49'10.48" S	40°16'27.63" W	Kasahara <i>et al.</i> (2003)
Brazil, ES, Aracruz, Barra do Sahi <sup>3</sup>	19°52'43.14" S	40°5'1.97" W	MBML-Anfibios 4739
Brazil, ES, Aracruz, Pau Brasil <sup>3</sup>	19°51'0" S	40°8'60" W	MBML-Anfibios 923
Brazil, ES, Aracruz, Santa Cruz <sup>3</sup>	19°56'2.61" S	40°8'18.89" W	MBML-Anfibios 3
Brazil, ES, Aracruz, Ter. Aqu. Barra do Riacho <sup>3</sup>	19°49'52.83" S	40°3'37.19" W	MBML-Anfibios 7202
Brazil, ES, Conceição da Barra, Itaúnas <sup>3</sup>	18°25'27.73" S	39°42'18.25" W	CFBH 2394.0
Brazil, ES, Conceição da Barra, PE de Itaúnas <sup>3</sup>	18°24'33.17" S	39°42'54.61" W	MBML-Anfibios 4846
Brazil, ES, Guarapari, PE Paulo César Vinha <sup>3</sup>	20°35'37.93" S	40°24'46.27" W	Nunes and Fagundes (2008)
Brazil, ES, Guarapari, Restinga de Setiba <sup>3</sup>	20°40'0" S	40°29'51" W	MBML-Anfibios 4738
Brazil, ES, Ibraçu, Faz. do Morro das Palmas-Picuã <sup>3</sup>	19°51'55" S	40°20'10" W	MBML-Anfibios 7419
Brazil, ES, Itapemirim, Lagoa Sete Pontas <sup>3</sup>	20°55'59.48" S	40°49'29.39" W	MBML-Anfibios 4743
Brazil, ES, Linhares, Estrada Linhares-Povoação <sup>3</sup>	19°28'30.83" S	39°54'8.92" W	MBML-Anfibios 2018
Brazil, ES, Linhares, Paraju RFCVRD <sup>3</sup>	19°6'44.73" S	39°57'38.75" W	ZUEC-AMP 9769
Brazil, ES, Praia das Neves <sup>1</sup>	21°15'0" S	40°58'0" W	Rocha <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Brazil, ES, Presidente Kennedy <sup>1</sup>	21°17'59" S	40°57'30" W	Wogel <i>et al.</i> (2006)
Brazil, ES, Presidente Kennedy <sup>1</sup>	21°17'40" S	40°57'34.99" W	Wogel <i>et al.</i> (2006)
Brazil, ES, Presidente Kennedy, Praia das Neves <sup>4</sup>	21°16'48" S	40°58'9" W	MBML-Anfibios 4672
Brazil, ES, São Mateus, APA de Restinga de Guriri <sup>3</sup>	18°49'33.91" S	39°45'32.9" W	MBML-Anfibios 1803
Brazil, ES, São Mateus, Fazenda Lagoa Suruaca <sup>4</sup>	19°8'18" S	39°43'56" W	MBML-Anfibios 2377
Brazil, ES, São Mateus, São Mateus <sup>2</sup>	18°42'58" S	39°51'32" W	MBML-Anfibios 695
Brazil, ES, Setiba <sup>1</sup>	20°34'60" S	40°27'0" W	Rocha <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Brazil, ES, Serra, Balneário Costa Bela <sup>3</sup>	20°10'22.17" S	40°11'14.09" W	MBML-Anfibios 7386
Brazil, ES, Sooretama <sup>2</sup>	19°11'50.27" S	40°5'52.74" W	MZUSP 124721–22, MZUSP 125027
Brazil, ES, Vila Velha, Lagoa do Milho, Ponta da Fruta <sup>2</sup>	20°19'47" S	40°17'32" W	ZUEC-AMP 3725
Brazil, ES, Vitória, Goiabeiras <sup>3</sup>	20°15'33.87" S	40°17'20.75" W	MBML-Anfibios 2109
Brazil, ES, Vitória, Restinga de Camburi <sup>3</sup>	20°15'58.18" S	40°15'55.31" W	MBML-Anfibios 4746
Brazil, MG, Marliéria, PE Rio do Doce <sup>1</sup>	19°41'58.67" S	42°31'26.12" W	Feio <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Brazil, RJ, Maricá <sup>1</sup>	22°57'18" S	42°49'48.72" W	Rocha <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Brazil, RJ, Guapimirim, RPPN Campo Esc. G.H. Nunes <sup>3</sup>	22°34'47.24" S	43°2'1.64" W	Silva-Soares <i>et al.</i> (2010)
Brazil, RJ, Grumari <sup>1</sup>	23°3'0" S	43°31'60" W	Rocha <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Brazil, RJ, Jurubatiba <sup>1</sup>	22°16'60" S	41°40'59.99" W	Rocha <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Brazil, RJ, Massambaba <sup>1</sup>	22°55'60" S	42°12'0" W	Rocha <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Brazil, RJ, Rio de Janeiro, Barra da Tijuca <sup>3</sup>	22°56'35.7" S	43°17'19.29" W	Pimenta <i>et al.</i> (2009)
Brazil, RJ, Rio de Janeiro, Recreio dos Bandeirantes <sup>3</sup>	23°1'10.49" S	43°28'45.24" W	ZUEC-AMP 1969
Brazil, RJ, Rio de Janeiro, Restinga de Grumari <sup>3</sup>	23°2'42.06" S	43°32'3.31" W	ZUEC-AMP 2758
Brazil, RJ, Casemiro de Abreu, Barra do São João <sup>3</sup>	22°35'32.3" S	41°59'26.53" W	MZUSP 123705, MZUSP 123714–15
Brazil, SP, Caraguatatuba <sup>5</sup>	23°39'26.6" S	45°25'56.62" W	New Record (MZUSP 149809)
Brazil, SP, Ubatuba, Praia do Lázaro <sup>3</sup>	23°30'3.01" S	45°8'19.55" W	Sazima and Cardoso (1980); Gioia and Souza-Lima (1988)

Coordinates: 1= given in the publication; 2=from city town; 3=obtained through Google Earth software; 4= given on SpeciesLink web portal; 5=took with a GPS.

*Aparasphenodon brunoi* is currently considered of "least concern" by the IUCN because it is widely distributed (Rocha *et al.* 2004). However the populations are decreasing, probably due to habitat loss as we observed in Caraguatatuba, and due to other human activities along the Brazilian sandy coastal plains, like human settlements (Rocha *et al.* 2004).

Thus the new record presented here is of interest to the understanding of how climatic changes can affect species range expansion, a relatively well documented

phenomenon for species inhabiting temperate areas (Melles *et al.* 2011; Imbert *et al.* 2012; Mair *et al.* 2012), but that is still poorly addressed in tropical environments, such as the Atlantic Forest. Our results also point out that after more than 20 years without any further record *Aparasphenodon brunoi* is still present in the *restinga* forests of São Paulo state, a very anthropized environment in the São Paulo's Atlantic Forest, which obviously needs urgent conservation plans.





FIGURE 2. Specimen of *Aparasphenodon brunoi* (MZUSP 149809) collected in Caraguatatuba, São Paulo, Brazil.

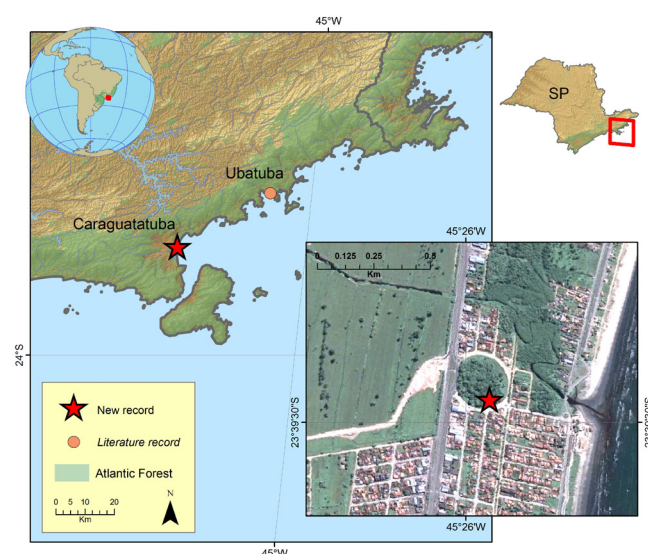


FIGURE 3. New record of *Aparasphenodon brunoi* in São Paulo state, Brazil: Caraguatatuba, on the coastal plain, and the only other known record for São Paulo state, at Ubatuba, Lázaro beach (Gioia and Souza-Lima 1988). SP=São Paulo state.

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