

# *Taeniophallus affinis* (Günther, 1858) (Squamata, Serpentes, Dipsadidae): Distribution extension, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Almir de Paula<sup>1\*</sup>, Noeli Zanella<sup>2</sup> and Samara Arsego Guaragni<sup>3</sup>

1 Universidade de Brasília, Instituto de Biologia, Departamento de Zoologia, Campus Darcy Ribeiro- Asa Norte. CEP 70910-900. Brasília, DF, Brasil.

2 Universidade de Passo Fundo, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Campus I, Caixa postal 611/631. CEP 99001-970. Passo Fundo, RS, Brasil.

3 Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Instituto de Biociências, Departamento de Zoologia, Avenida Bento Gonçalves. 9500. CEP 91501-970 Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil.

\* Corresponding author. E-mail: [almirdp@gmail.com](mailto:almirdp@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT:** *Taeniophallus affinis* (Dipsadidae) has a distribution restricted to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. We collected a male specimen at Parque Municipal de Sertão, state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. This record extends the distribution of the species ca. 118 km S; it was previously known only from the northeastern part of the state.

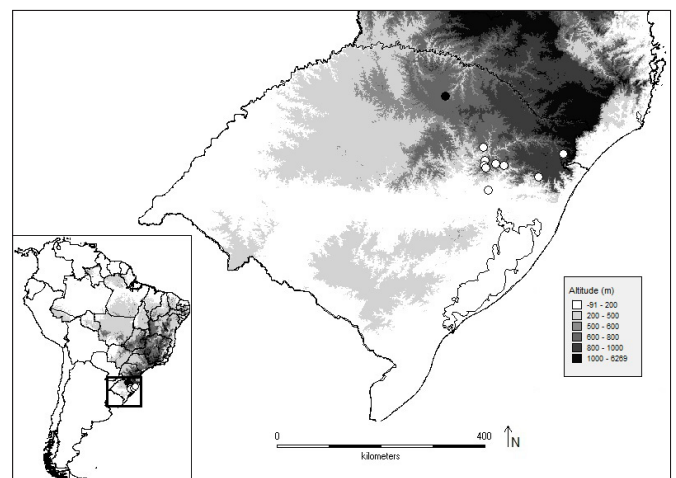
*Taeniophallus affinis* (Günther 1858) is a snake of the family Dipsadidae with a wide distribution in the Atlantic Forest of southeastern and southern Brazil (Di-Bernardo and Lema 1988; Di-Bernardo 1992). It occurs from the southeastern part of the state of Minas Gerais to the states of Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul. The southernmost record of this species is from the northeastern part of the state of Rio Grande do Sul (Di-Bernardo and Lema 1988; Di-Bernardo 1992). The natural history of *T. affinis* is poorly documented; it is terrestrial, living amidst leaf litter and its diet consists of anurans and lizards (Marquez *et al.* 2001; Condez *et al.* 2009; Zacariotti and Gomes 2010).



**FIGURE 1.** A male specimen of *Taeniophallus affinis* (CRUPF 1698; SVL = 502 mm) eating a frog (*Physalaemus gracilis*) collected in Sertão, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Photograph by N. Zanella.

We report an adult male specimen of *Taeniophallus affinis* (CRUPF 1698, Coleção de Répteis da Universidade de Passo Fundo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil; SVL = 502 mm; tail length = 141 mm; 48.0 g; Figure 1) collected from a pitfall trap in the Parque Natural Municipal de Sertão (28°02'31" S, 52°13'28" W; 670 m elevation), state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (collection permit IBAMA #14543-

1). This new record from the northern part of the state extends the distribution of *T. affinis* ca. 118 km S, from the nearest known locality (Veranópolis, 28°55'59" S, 51°32'59" W, 680 m elevation; formerly Alfredo Chaves; Figure 2).



**FIGURE 2.** Distribution map for *Taeniophallus affinis*. Open circles represent previous distribution records, and the closed circle the new occurrence.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The authors are grateful to Francisco Luis Franco for the identification of the specimen, and to CNPq for financial support. We acknowledge the Sertão Municipality for permission to work in the Park.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- 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.
- Di-Bernardo, M. and T. Lema. 1988. O gênero *Rhadinaea* Cope, 1863 no Brasil meridional. III *Rhadinaea affinis* (Günther, 1858) (Serpentes, Colubridae). *Acta Biologica Leopoldensia* 10(2):223-252.
- Condez, T.H., R. J. Sawaya and M. Dixo. 2009. Herpetofauna dos remanescentes de Mata Atlântica de Tapiraí e Piedade, SP, sudeste do Brasil. *Biota Neotropica* 9(1):157-185.

Zacariotti, R. L. and C.A. Gomes. 2010. Diet of the black-headed forest racer *Taeniophallus affinis* Günther, 1858 in the Brazilian Atlantic forest. *Herpetology notes* 3:11-12.

Marques, O.A.V., A. Eterovick and I. Sazima. 2001. *Serpentes da Mata Atlântica: guia ilustrado para a Serra do Mar*. Ribeirão Preto: Ed. Holos. 184p.

RECEIVED: January 2011  
LAST REVISED: April 2011  
ACCEPTED: April 2011  
PUBLISHED ONLINE: May 2011  
EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Diego F. Cisneros-Heredia