

## New record and updated distribution map for *Drymoluber brazili* (Gomes, 1918) (Serpentes: Colubridae)

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*Locality.*— Brazil, state of Piauí, municipality of Pedro II, Grotta rural village (4°29'56" S; 41°28'59" W, datum WGS84, ca. 580 m above sea level). Collected by Felipe Paixão de Sena on April 21, 2021, around 11:00 am. Deposited in the Biological Collection of the Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciências e Tecnologias do Piauí-IFPI *Campus* Pedro II (CBPII 189).

*Comments.*— The genus *Drymoluber* Amaral, 1930 currently comprises three species of aglyphous snakes with wide distribution in South America: *Drymoluber apurimacensis* Lehr, Carrillo and Hocking, 2004 is restricted to Apurímac Valley in Peru (Lehr *et al.*, 2004); *Drymoluber brazili* (Gomes, 1918) mainly known for Brazil with a single record for Paraguay (Costa *et al.*, 2013); and *Drymoluber dichrous* (Peters, 1863) with distribution to Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana (Costa *et al.*, 2013). *Drymoluber brazili* is a diurnal and terrestrial snake that feeds on small vertebrates (Guedes *et al.*, 2014) and presents evidence of pseudoautotomy (non-spontaneous separation from the tail) (Ribeiro and Mesquita, 2014). It is a typical species from open areas of the Brazilian Cerrado, being also found in savanna enclaves in the Caatinga, and in anthropized areas of Atlantic Forest, between 334–1,100 m elevation (Costa *et al.*, 2013; Guedes *et al.*, 2014).

Despite the wide distribution in the central region of Brazil, there are few records of this species in the states of the Northeastern region of the country (see Guedes *et al.*, 2014). Herein, we present a new record of *Drymoluber brazili* for the state of Piauí, increasing its distribution and providing an updated distribution map of the species. A juvenile

of *Drymoluber brazili* [Snout-Vent Length (SVL): 327 mm, Caudal Length (CL): 142 mm; Fig. 1] was accidentally found in a rural residence of the municipality of Pedro II, state of Piauí. Pedro II is located on the Serra dos Matões, a mountain range inserted in the Serra da Ibiapaba Environmental Protection Area, a transition area between Cerrado and Caatinga ecoregions, with predominance of Cerrado floral elements (IBGE, 2012; Santos *et al.*, 2019). The specimen, killed by a domestic animal, was immediately collected and sent to the laboratory for fixation. The species identification was verified by Henrique Costa.

*Drymoluber brazili* can be distinguished from its congeners by having 17/17/15 smooth dorsal scales rows with two apical pits, 182–202 ventral scales, and 109–127 subcaudal scales, without secondary sexual dimorphism in segmental counts (Lehr *et al.*, 2004; Costa *et al.*, 2013). In general, it presents a dorsal coloration ranging from olive-green to grayish-brown on the anterior part of the body, becoming reddish-brown posteriorly, with a yellowish-white belly (Gomes, 1918; Costa *et al.*, 2013). When young, individuals have a red-orange head, with broad dark transverse bands separated by narrower light bands on the back and a yellowish-cream belly (Costa *et al.*, 2013).

Previous records of *Drymoluber brazili* are known only from two localities in the southern region of the state of Piauí (Fig. 2), for municipality of São Gonçalo do Gurguéia (Freitas *et al.*, 2012) and Serra das Confusões National Park (Dal Vechio *et al.*, 2016). This new record extends the known geographical distribution of *Drymoluber brazili* in about 536 km airline northeastern of the Serra das



**Figure 1.** Juvenile of *Drymoluber brazili* (CBP1189; SVL 327 mm, CL 142 mm) from the municipality of Pedro II, state of Piauí, Brazil.

Confusões National Park and about 744 km airline northeastern of the São Gonçalo do Gurguéia. In addition, we increased about 500 km northwestern of the municipality of Milagres, state of Ceará, the closest known record of *Drymoluber brazili* (Fig. 2).

Despite presenting a significant increase in its geographic distribution, *Drymoluber brazili* is still underrepresented in zoological collections (França *et al.*, 2006; Costa *et al.*, 2013), mainly after the fire at the Butantan Institute, where a large part of preserved specimens was destroyed (Costa *et al.*, 2013). This new occurrence within a Caatinga-Cerrado transition area in the northern region of the state of

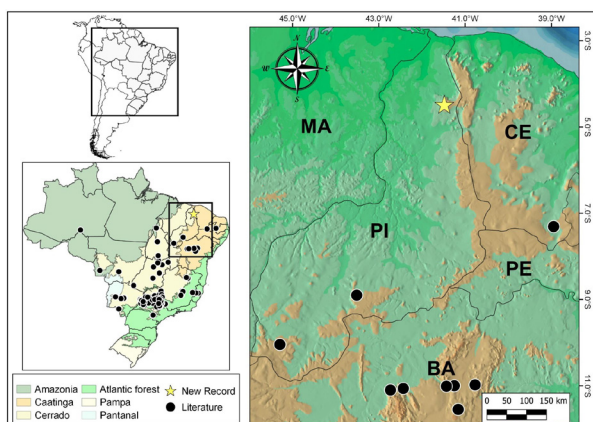
Piauí reinforces the lack of herpetological research and the need for systematic surveys to increasing knowledge about the distribution of this and other species in the state of Piauí.

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**Figure 2.** Geographic distribution of *Drymoluber brazili* based on literature records (Nogueira, 2001; Lehr *et al.*, 2004; Moreira *et al.*, 2009; Freitas *et al.*, 2012; Ribeiro *et al.*, 2012; Costa *et al.*, 2013; França and Braz, 2013; Costa *et al.*, 2014; Dal Vechio *et al.*, 2016; Nogueira *et al.*, 2019), and new record to the municipality of Pedro II (yellow star), state of Piauí, Brazil.

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