

First record of the snail-eating snake *Sibynomorphus mikanii* (Schlegel, 1837) (Serpentes: Dipsadiidae) from Santa Catarina State, Central Southern Brazil

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Abstract. The first geographic record of the snail-eating snake *Sibynomorphus mikanii* (Schlegel, 1837) (Serpentes: Dipsadiidae) in the “Bosque Vereador Pedro Medeiros”, a preserved urban forest park of the Florianópolis Continental Territory, Santa Catarina State, Central Southern Brazil, is confirmed, expanding the known geographical distribution of this species in the Brazilian Southern Region.

Keywords: Malacofagous snake, Confirmed occurrence, First geographical record, Santa Catarina State, Central Southern Brazil Region.

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Introduction

Currently are known and registered to the vast territory of Brazil a total of 17 species of snail-eating snakes, and of these seven have previous confirmed occurrence in the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil (Agudo-Padrón, 2013: 243, Appendix 1).

These species have skull features which allow adjustments to feed on gastropod molluscs, slugs and snails, without fracturing the shells of the latter, initially biting into the soft parts of the snail and injecting in them the product of cephalic glands, which causes anesthesia in the mollusk, which withdraw already inert of its own shell and swallowed (Laporta-Ferreira et al., 1988; Agudo-Padrón, 2013: 239).

Particularly the species *Sibynomorphus mikanii* (Schlegel, 1837), object of attention in this report, and whose diet consists primarily of slugs – similar to that observed for other species in the genus *Sibynomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843 (Agudo-Padrón, 2013: 240), so far without any known records for this state. Corresponds to the neighboring State of Paraná your known geographical occurrence nearest in the Southern Brazil (Agudo-Padrón 2013: 243, Appendix 1). At the same time, and for a long time, its occurrence in the neighboring southern State of Rio Grande do Sul was also considered (Uetz and Hallermann, s/d), however, it was proved later (Borges-Martins et al., 2006: 306) that such an occurrence corresponds to the truth to

species *Sibynomorphus newwiedi* (Ihering, 1911), featuring a “determination error”.

Recently, in date April 14, 2015, the second author of this report finds in the environment of the “Bosque Vereador Pedro Medeiros” territory (for a convenient and complete description of this locality see Agudo-Padrón and Luz, 2014) a little and quirky ophidian (Figure 1), whose characteristics lead us to believe this is a

snail-eating snake Dipsadiidae
Sibynomorphus Fitzinger, 1843, more specifically a *Sibynomorphus mikanii* (Schlegel, 1837), although, according to some researchers, this could be most well a juvenile of *Sibynomorphus newwiedi* (Ihering, 1911). The specimen was later returned undamaged to their habitat in the “Bosque”.



Figure 1. Snail-eating snake *Sibynomorphus mikanii* (Schlegel, 1837) specimen, found in the “Bosque Vereador Pedro Medeiros”, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina State, Central Southern Brazil Region.

Besides the gastropod molluscs richness (Agudo-Padrón and Luz, 2014), the bio-ecological composition of the site includes the next other species of small native forest reptiles: amphisbaenids *Leposternon microcephalum* Wagler, 1824, arboreal lizards *Enyalius iheringii* Boulenger, 1885 and tree snakes *Imantodes cenchoa* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Thus, the gift features the first confirmed record of the malacofagous

snake species *Sibynomorphus mikanii* (Schlegel, 1837) for the State of Santa Catarina, expanding its known geographical distribution in the Southern Brazil Region.

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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