

New record and update on the geographical distribution of the snake *Atractus pantostictus* Fernandes & Puerto, 1993, for Northeast Brazil

Régis R. Silva¹, José Silonardo P. de Oliveira^{2,3} and Crizanto B. De-Carvalho¹

¹ DBO Engenharia LTDA. Rua 25, 190, Jardim Goiás, Goiânia, 74.805-280, Goiás, Brasil.

² Laboratório de Ecologia e Biogeografia de Mamíferos da Universidade Estadual de Goiás. Avenida Brasil, 435, Setor Hélio Leão. Campus Sudoeste – Sede Quirinópolis, 75.860-000, Goiás, Brasil.

³ Programa de Biodiversidade Animal da Universidade Federal de Goiás. Avenida Esperança, s/n, Térreo, ICB-V, Campus Samambaia, UFG, CEP: 74.690-900, Goiânia - GO, Brasil.

Locality. – Brazil, state of Bahia, municipality of São Desidério (12,4422°S, 45,1811°W, WGS 84, 607m above sea level). The specimen was captured in a pitfall trap in a transitional environment between cerrado and vereda team working in Wildlife Monitoring Program, on November 25th, 2017, around 07:31 am. The specimen was fixed whole in 10% formalin and deposited to the Zoological Collection of the Federal University of Goiás, Brazil (ZUFG1437). Identification of the specimens was based on Fernandes and Puerto (1993) and Passos *et al.* (2010). The specimen presents 2 postoculars; temporals 1+2; 7 supralabials, with the third and fourth contacting the orbit; 7 infralabials, with the first four contacting the chinshields; 3 gulars; 3 preventrals; 17 dorsal scale rows at midbody; 146 ventrals; cloacal plate single; and 36 divided subcaudals. A Collecting permit (# No 3979) was granted by the Instituto do Meio Ambiente e Recursos Hídricos (INEMA), Bahia, Brazil.

Comment. – The Dipsadine genus *Atractus* is endemic to the Neotropical region (Passos, 2008). This genus of semi-fossorial or cryptozoic snakes currently comprises about 149 species, most of them exhibiting restricted distributions (Passos *et al.*, 2010; Uetz, 2024). In Brazil, 45 species of the genus *Atractus* have been recorded (Guedes *et al.*, 2022), including *Atractus pantostictus* Fernandes and Puerto 1993, which is considered an endemic species to Brazil (Nogueira *et al.*, 2019; Guedes *et al.*, 2022), and the type locality is for the Municipality of Franco

da Rocha, State of São Paulo. The species occurs in the central and southeastern regions of Brazil, in the states of Goiás, Distrito Federal, Tocantins, Minas Gerais, São Paulo and Mato Grosso (Guedes *et al.*, 2022). The species inhabits areas of Cerrado and Cerrado/Submontane to Lower Montane Semi-deciduous forest transition zones (Passos *et al.*, 2010).

We collected an adult snake (snout-vent length 223 mm, tail length 37 mm; total length 260 mm; Fig. 1) on Nov 25th, 2017, in the country of Brazil, state of Bahia, municipality of São Desidério. The species was captured in a pitfall trap in a transitional environment between cerrado and vereda. The area is in the drainage basin of the Fêmeas river, predominantly characterized by cerrado *sensu stricto*, semi-deciduous, and deciduous forest vegetation, gallery forest and “veredas” (Mendonça *et al.*, 2008; Oliveira *et al.*, 2015).

Although the distribution of *Atractus pantostictus* is widely recognized, there is currently no confirmed record of the occurrence of this species in the state of Bahia. According to Haddan and Lira-da-Silva (2012), who documented the presence of 129 snake species in the State, *Atractus pantostictus* was not documented. Subsequent studies conducted by Lima *et al.* (2016) in Cerrado localities in the western region of the State also did not record the presence of this species. Additionally, in the list of reptiles in Brazil compiled by Guedes *et al.* (2022), there is no record of the species for the state of Bahia. Based on



Figure 1. *Atractus pantostictus* from São Desidério Municipality, Bahia State, Brazil.

these pieces of evidence, we present the first documented record of *Atractus pantostictus* for the state of Bahia and the Northeast region of Brazil.

To update the current geographic distribution map of *A. pantostictus*, we considered literature records from Nogueira *et al.* (2019) and the data available from the SpeciesLink network (2024). Our record extends the known distribution area to approximately 257 km from the municipality of Mateiros, in the State of Tocantins, 288 km from the Municipality of Cavalcante, in the State of Goiás, and 375 km from the Municipality of João Pinheiro, in the State of Minas Gerais. These are the closest points to our distribution extension. The new record reported in this study fills a distributional gap of the poorly known on *A. pantostictus* in northeastern Brazil.

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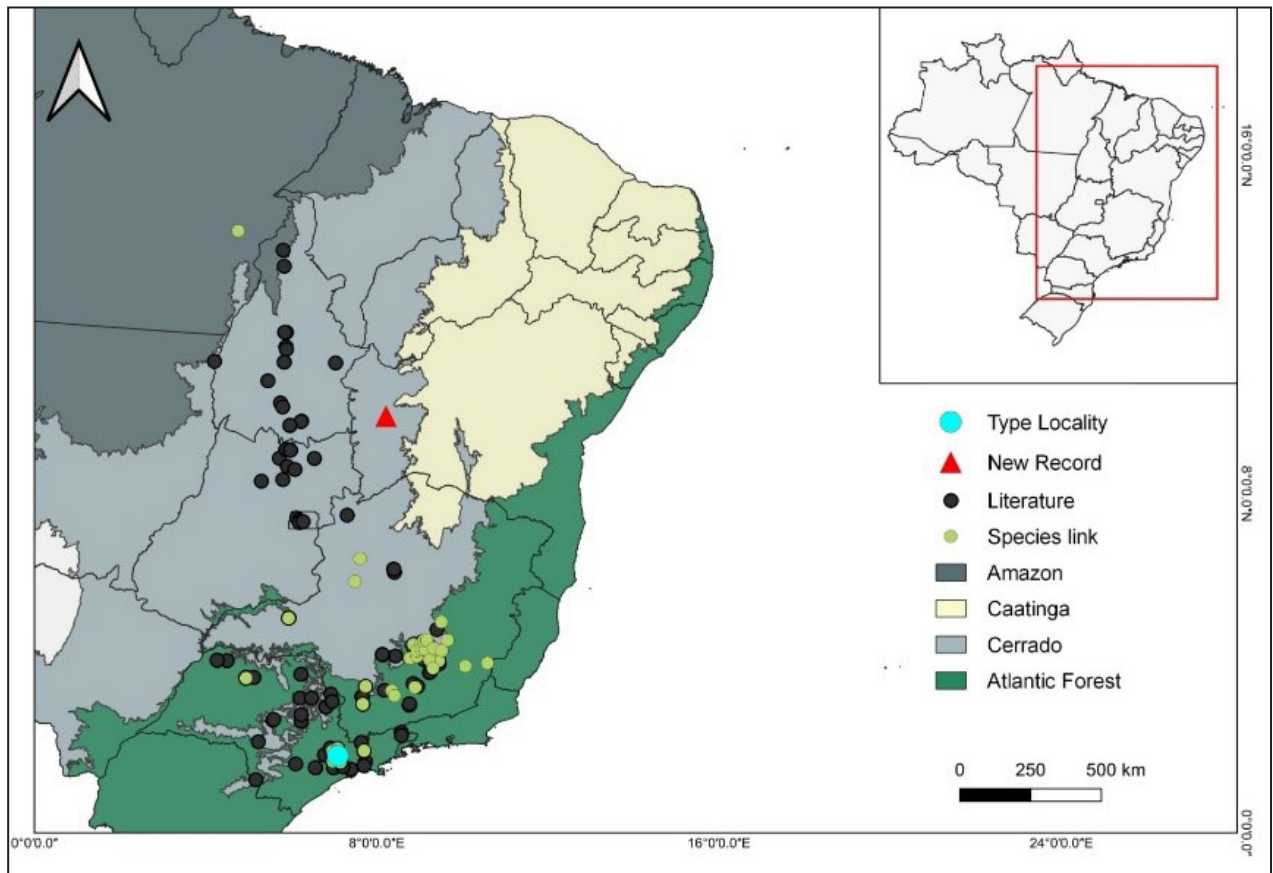


Figure 2. Map showing the known localities in Brazil for *Atractus pantostictus*.

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