

NOTA CORTA

New record of the poorly known lizard *Enyalius capetinga* (Squamata: Leiosauridae) from the Brazilian Cerrado

Nuevo registro de la poca conocida lagartija *Enyalius capetinga* (Squamata: Leiosauridae) del Cerrado brasileño

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ABSTRACT

The lizard *Enyalius capetinga* is the most recently described species of the genus and is endemic to the Cerrado biome of central Brazil. Here we present a new record for this species from the Municipality of Estrela do Sul, in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. This finding fills a 110-km gap in the distribution of the species and is just the eighth reported locality for the species range-wide.

Keywords. Brazil, geographic distribution, Minas Gerais, Reptilia, Savannah.

RESUMEN

Enyalius capetinga es la última especie descrita del género y se encuentra en el bioma del Cerrado de Brasil central. Aquí presentamos un nuevo registro para esta especie del Municipio de Estrela do Sul, en el estado de Minas Gerais, Brasil. Este hallazgo llena un vacío de 110 km en la distribución de la especie, y es solo la octava localidad reportada para la especie en todo su rango.

Palabras clave. Brasil, distribución geográfica, Minas Gerais, Reptilia, savana.

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The lizard family Leiosauridae contains 34 species that occur in open and forested areas throughout South America, and three genera are represented in Brazil: *Anisolepis*, *Urostrophus* and *Enyalius* (Costa and Bérnills 2018). This last genus is endemic to Brazil with eleven recognized species (Breitman et al. 2018, Costa and Bérnills 2018). *Enyalius* are diurnal, semi-arboreal, insectivorous lizards that reach a maximum snout-to-vent length of 140 mm (Etheridge 1969, Rodrigues et al. 2014). The taxonomic history of the genus has been relatively stable (see Rodrigues et al. 2014 and Breitman et al. 2018 for recent reviews). Among the most understudied species is *E. capetinga*, which is endemic to the Cerrado biome and until recently was confused with its more widespread close relative, *E. bilineatus* (Breitman et al. 2018). Herein, we present a new record for *Enyalius capetinga* that markedly expands its known geographic distribution.

On 11 December 2014, a juvenile *Enyalius capetinga* was captured by pitfall trap in an area of Cerrado in the Municipality of Estrela do Sul, Minas Gerais, Brazil (18°45'26" South 47°54'24" West, 950 m elevation). The site is a humid, shaded gallery forest along the Piçarrão stream, with nearby non-native eucalyptus plantations. The lizard was collected under SISBIO permit #46085-1, and the specimen was cataloged in the reptile collection of the Museu

de Zoologia da Universidade Estadual de Campinas "Adão José Cardoso," Campinas (ZUEC-REP 4424).

Diagnostic characters possessed by the specimen that support its identification as *E. capetinga* are as follows, with character states in parentheses representing variation in the *E. capetinga* type series as published by Breitman et al. (2018): 33 ventral scales (mean = 34.45 ± 2.25 standard deviation [range = 29–40]), 13 dorso-lateral tibial scales (10.38 ± 1.29 [8–13]), 66 vertebral scales (68.8 ± 4.94 [55–82]), 6 supraciliary scales (6.59 ± 1.64 [4–14]), 7 supralabial scales (7.86 ± 1.03 [6–12]), and 51–53 paravertebral scales (63.84 ± 5.96 [51–77]). Additionally, the lateral scales are granular, most dorsal scales are keeled, and the nasal and postrostral scales lack contact in our specimen. The specimen was 37 mm in snout-to-vent length, with a tail length of 94 mm. The specimen's overall coloration was generally consistent with male *E. capetinga* (Fig 1), although we did not examine the specimen for presence of hemipenes and color pattern is minimally useful in differentiating between the sexes in *E. capetinga* and other congeners (Jackson 1978, Bretman et al. 2018).

Enyalius capetinga was previously known only from seven localities, all in the Brazilian Cerrado: three in Brasília, Distrito Federal; one in Catalão, Goiás; and one each



Figure 1. Juvenile *Enyalius capetinga* (ZUEC-REP 4424) in life, from the Municipality of Estrela do Sul, Minas Gerais State, Brazil.

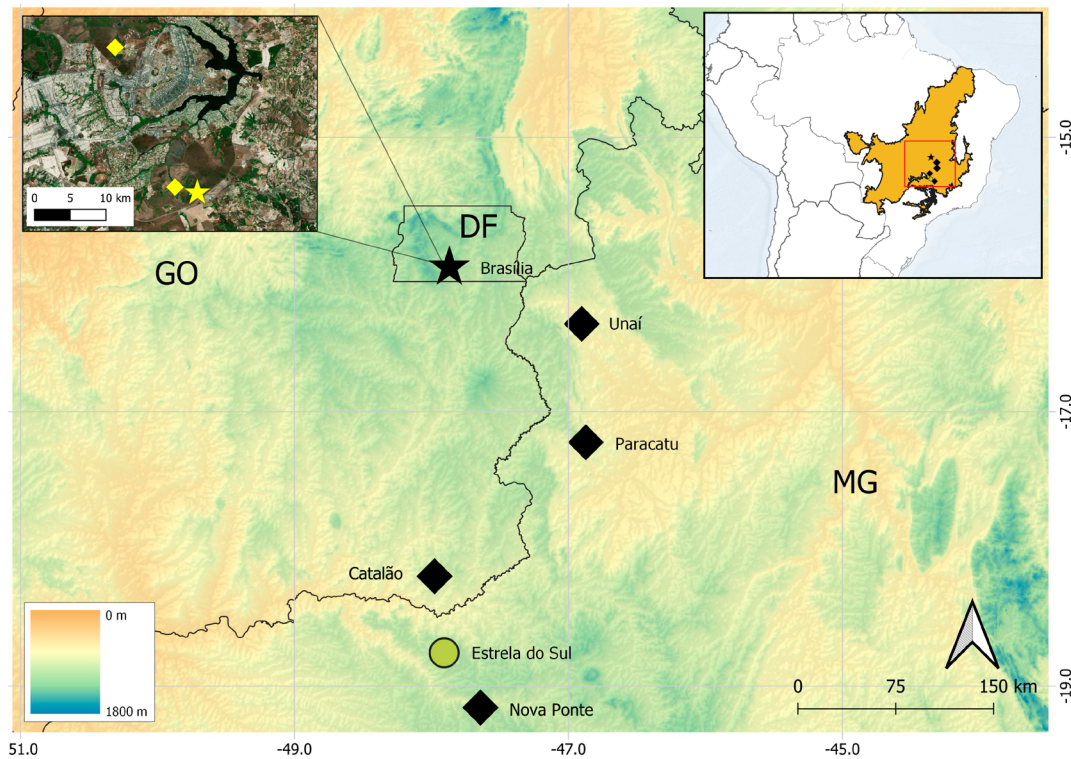


Figure 2. Distribution of *Enyalius capetinga* in the Cerrado biome (orange polygon of inset map) of central Brazil. Black star = type locality, black and yellow diamonds = other records (Breitman *et al.* 2018), and green dot = new record. DF = Distrito Federal, GO = Goiás State, MG = Minas Gerais State.

in Unaí, Paracatu, and Nova Ponte, Minas Gerais (Breitman *et al.* 2018). The Catalão and Nova Ponte records were inadvertently excluded from the range map and supplemental list of localities by Breitman *et al.* (2018), but were included in their published phylogeny and its associated supplemental file. Oliveira and Costa (2022) recently published an additional record that they claimed to represent *E. capetinga*, but this record is based only on iNaturalist photos that show none of the diagnostic features of the species as given in the original description. This proposed record for *E. capetinga* is thus unverifiable, and we do not consider it further. Therefore, our new record fills a 110-km gap between the Catalão and Nova Ponte records, being 48 km to the northwest of the latter (Fig 2).

The *Enyalius* species present in the Cerrado (*E. bilineatus*, *E. capetinga* and *E. perditus*) suffer from ongoing destruction of the biome (Zaher *et al.* 2011, Breitman *et al.* 2018). This conversion of natural habitats, the increasing isolation of protected areas, and changes in the Brazilian Forest Code pose serious threats to these lizards (Marques *et al.* 2010, Ledo and Colli 2016). The new record for *E. capetinga* that we announce herein is thus of potential importance for the long-term conservation of the species.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

FM: map, fieldwork, and writing. BTMN: fieldwork and writing.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest

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