

SHORT NOTE

A new record of *Atractus collaris* (Serpentes: Dipsadidae) in the Brazilian Amazonia

Un nuevo registro de *Atractus collaris* (Serpentes: Dipsadidae) en la Amazonía brasileña

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Atractus* is the most diverse of the snakes, containing 151 described species. Its distribution ranges from Panama to Argentina with 44 species occurring in Brazil. *Atractus collaris* is a species described from Ecuador, occurring also in Colombia, Peru, and Brazil. Despite its wide distribution, there are only two records of this species in Brazil. This may be related to its cryptozoic habits and insufficient sampling effort. Here we present a new record of *Atractus collaris* in the municipality of Itapiranga, state of Amazonas. This is the third record for Brazil and the easternmost record for this species.

Keywords: cryptozoic, distribution extension, snakes, Squamata.

RESUMEN

El género *Atractus* es el más diverso de las serpientes, conteniendo 151 especies descritas. Su distribución va desde Panamá hasta Argentina, con 44 especies presentes en Brasil. *Atractus collaris* es una especie descrita de Ecuador, encontrándose también en Colombia, Perú y Brasil. A pesar de su amplia distribución, solo existen dos registros de esta especie en Brasil. Esto puede estar relacionado con sus hábitos criptozoicos y el insuficiente esfuerzo de muestreo. Aquí presentamos un nuevo registro de *Atractus collaris* en el municipio de Itapiranga, estado de Amazonas. Este es el tercer registro para Brasil y el más oriental para esta especie.

Palabras clave: criptozoico, extensión de distribución, serpientes, Squamata.

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The genus *Atractus* Wagler, 1828 is the most diverse genus of snakes, comprising 151 described cryptozoic species with a geographical distribution ranging from Panama to Argentina (Giraudo and Scrocchi 2000, Uetz et al. 2024). Despite the wide distribution of the genus, many species are known only from the type locality or have a restricted geographical distribution (e.g., *Atractus caete* Passos, Fernandes, Bérnils and Moura-Leite, 2010 and *Atractus hoogmoedi* Prudente and Passos, 2010, Arteaga et al. 2017). This may be related to its cryptozoic habits and to

insufficient sampling effort (Passos and Prudente 2012). Here, we present a new record of *Atractus collaris* Peracca, 1897 in the central Brazilian Amazonia.

Atractus collaris belongs to the *A. collaris* species group, which also includes other six species (*A. alphonsehoge* Cunha and Nascimento, 1983, *A. caxiuana* Costa Prudente and Santos-Costa, 2006, *A. gaigeae* (Savage, 1955), *A. hoogmoedi* Prudente and Passos, 2010, *A. surucucu* Prudente, 2008, and *A. zidoki* Gasc and Rodriguez, 1979)

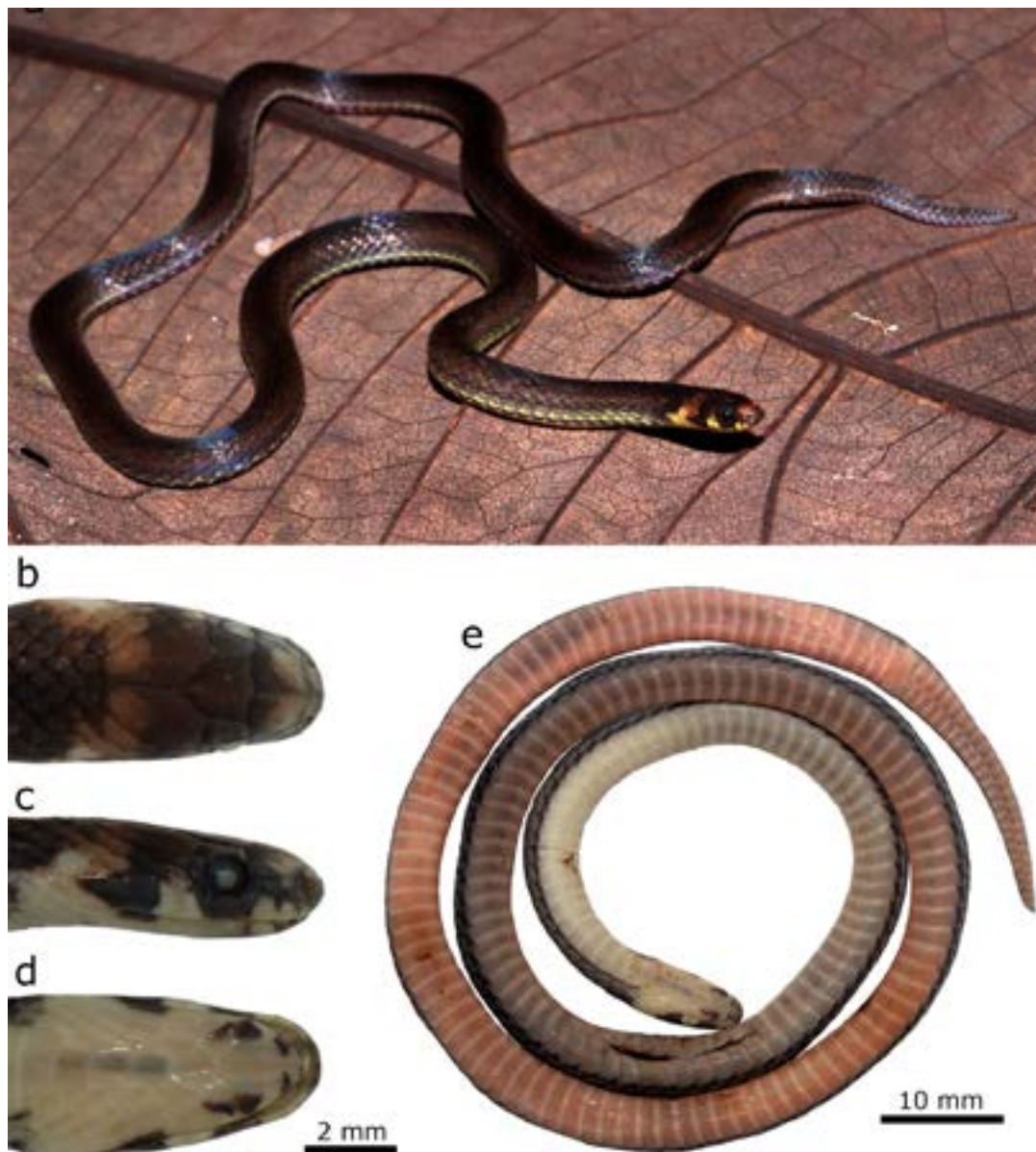


Figure 1. Female of *Atractus collaris* (INPA-H 44691) founded in Itapiranga municipality, Amazonas state, Brazil. Life color (a), dorsal (b), lateral (c) and ventral view of the head (d), ventral view of the body (e). Photographs: A.T. Mônico (a) and I.Y. Fernandes (b-e).

(Passos *et al.* 2018). The type locality of *A. collaris* is Cononaco River, in the province of Pastaza, Ecuador, but the species is also known to occur in Colombia, Peru and Brazil (Uetz *et al.* c2024). Despite its wide geographical distribution, there are only two previous records to Brazil, both in Amazonas state (east to Urucú River in the municipality of Coari and in the municipality of Presidente Figueiredo) (Passos *et al.* 2018, Nogueira *et al.* 2019).

At 6:42 pm on 8 Jun 2022, during fieldwork in the municipality of Itapiranga, state of Amazonas (2°42'31.9"South, 58°10'51.1"West, WGS84, 100 m above sea level), we found an active individual of *A. collaris* (snout-vent length: 303 mm) (Fig. 1) in the middle of an unpaved road. The collected specimen was fixed in 10 % formalin and stored in 70 % ethanol, authorized by the Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (process nº 75441-2).

We extract tissue samples and deposit them together with the voucher (INPA-H 44691) in the “Coleção de Anfíbios e Répteis” of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), Manaus, Brazil.

We confirmed the identification of the specimen using the diagnosis provided by Passos *et al.* (2018). The morphological characters observed were dorsal scales 17-17-17, two postoculars scales, one loreal, temporals 1+2, seven supralabials and seven infralabials, four prefrontals, 186 ventrals and 24 subcaudals. We also noted the absence of hemipenis (obtained by inserting a reptile sexer and counting subcaudal scales), characterizing it as a female (Fig. 1). This record extends the distribution of this species about 218 km to the east (considering a straight line longitudinally) (Fig. 2). It is the third record of *A. collaris* in Brazil and easternmost in the species distribution.

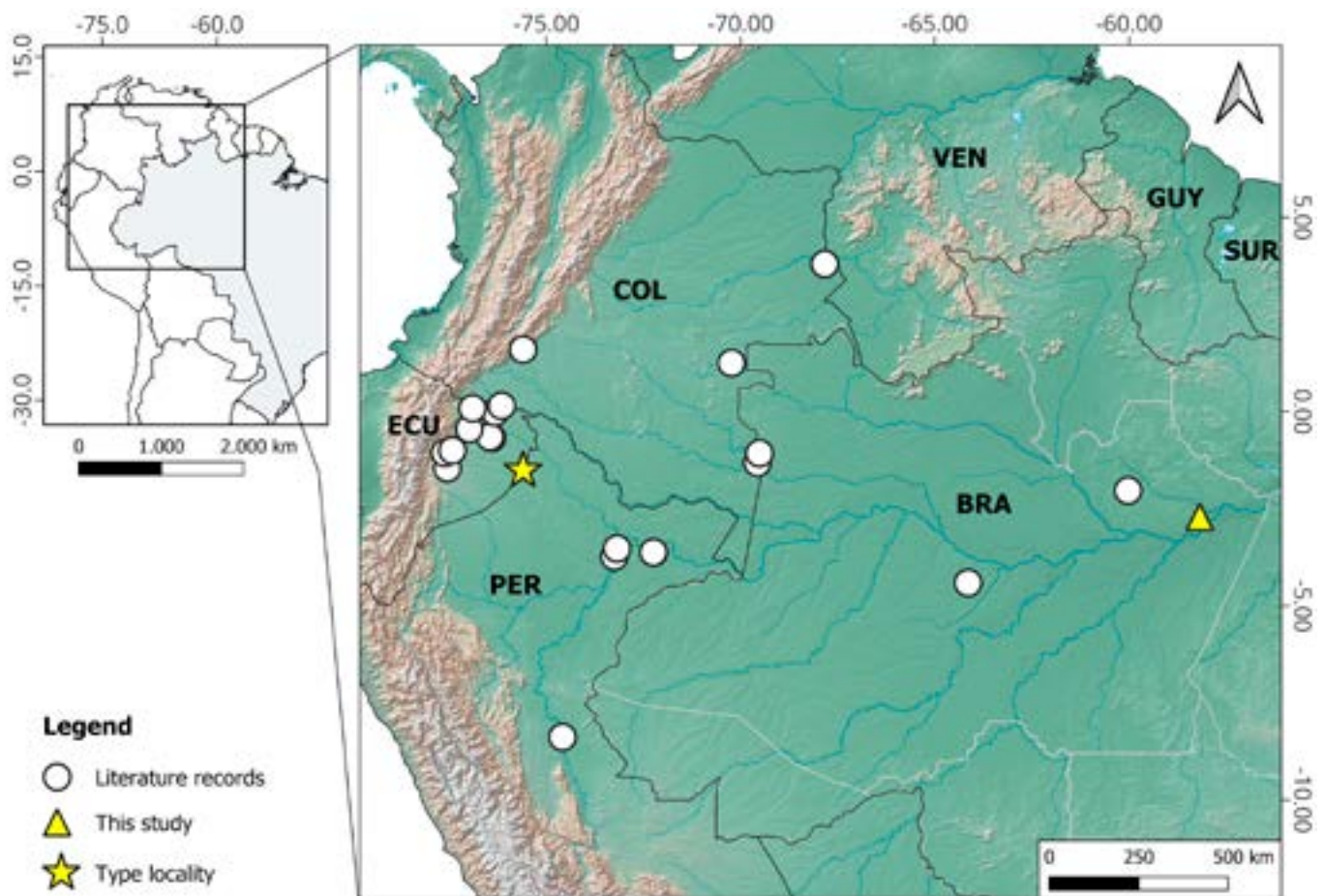


Figure 2. Records of *Atractus collaris* in South America. Acronyms: BRA = Brazil; COL = Colombia; ECU = Ecuador; GUY = Guyana; PER = Peru; Suriname = SUR; Venezuela = VEN.

The genus *Atractus* has a very conservative external morphology, which can be a challenge when differentiating the species, and furthermore, the reduced number of specimens found as well as integrative approaches elucidating their taxonomy are still scarce for the genus (Schargel and Castoe 2003, Passos *et al.* 2018). Records of new occurrence points, mainly of cryptic and rare species, allow morphological diversity to be better studied, in addition to factors that can lead to speciation or phenotypic changes across the landscape, such as changes in size or characteristics in reproductive behavior. This record is important to show that, despite being scarce, *Atractus collaris* should be distributed throughout western and central Amazonia.

AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION

BCM, ATM and IYF contributed writing the text. ATM and IYF provided photographs. BCM made the map.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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