

Reptilia, Squamata, Teiidae, *Dracaena paraguayensis* Amaral, 1950: In Paraguay, *Dracaena* sí, *Crocodylus* no

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ABSTRACT: An old published record for "*Crocodylus*" in Paraguay was almost certainly based on *Dracaena paraguayensis* Amaral, 1950. Thus, *D. paraguayensis* occurs from the Brazilian Pantanal south along the Paraguay River as far as Fuerte Olimpo, and *Crocodylus lacertinus* (Daudin, 1802) remains restricted to the Amazon and Orinoco river drainages.

Mesquita *et al.* (2006), in their excellent paper on the ecology of two genera of large, semiaquatic Amazonian teiids, cite Bertoni (1928) as the source of a record of *Crocodylus lacertinus* (Daudin, 1802) for Paraguay. Talbot (1979), in his list of Paraguayan reptiles, doubted the identification, but did not review any specimens. According to Bertoni (1928), the specimen was an animal from the northern part of Paraguay donated to the zoological garden in Asunción.

We examined the specimens preserved in the collection of the zoological garden and spoke to the zookeeper about this matter. The search produced an old specimen of *Dracaena paraguayensis* Amaral, 1950 without data, but none of *Crocodylus*. The collection's files shed no further light on the specimen, but the zookeeper remembered that it had lived at least two years in the zoo.

In Paraguay, *Dracaena paraguayensis*, along with other elements of the pantanal fauna such as *Iguana iguana* (Linnaeus, 1758), is found in the overflow swamps of the west bank of the Río Paraguay from the Pantanal of Brazil south as far as Fuerte Olimpo, Alto Paraguay (20°55' S, 57°50' W; Aquino *et al.* 1996; F. Bauer, pers. comm.). That Bertoni (1928; 1939) misidentified *Dracaena* for the similar *Crocodylus* is almost certain, and *Crocodylus lacertinus* remains a species restricted to the Amazon and Orinoco river basins (Avila-Pires 1995).

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