

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Testudines, Chelidae, *Platemys platycephala platycephala*: Distribution extension

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The South American chelid genus *Platemys* includes only one species, *Platemys platycephala* (Schneider 1792), characterized by small size (less than 18 cm carapace length), a very flat carapace with a preeminent vertebral groove, and a head that is orange-brown colored dorsally (Pritchard and Trebbau 1984; Ernst 1987; Ernst and Barbour 1989). The species presents two subspecies: *Platemys platycephala platycephala* (Schneider 1792) and *Platemys platycephala melanonota* Ernst 1984 (Turtle Taxonomy

Working Group 2007). *Platemys p. melanonota*, a darker subspecies, is found in Peru and Ecuador while *Platemys p. platycephala* is found in the Guianas, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil and Bolivia (Ernst 1983; 1987; Pritchard and Trebbau 1984).

At present, there is only one record of *Platemys p. platycephala* in state of Mato Grosso, Brazil, from Culuene river (Ernst 1983; Pritchard and Trebbau 1984; Iverson 1992), a tributary of the Xingu river, located in eastern Mato Grosso.



Figure 1. Specimen of *Platemys platycephala platycephala* (MZUFV 47) from municipality of Aripuanã, state of Mato Grosso, Brazil. Photo by V. A. São-Pedro.

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The *Museu de Zoologia João Moojen*, at *Universidade Federal de Viçosa*, municipality of Viçosa, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil has two specimens of *Platemys p. platycephala* housed in its herpetological collection (MZUFV 35, caparace length 143 mm and plastron length 133 mm; MZUFV 47, caparace length 83 mm and plastron length 47 mm, Figure 1), both from small streams inside primary forest on the left bank of the Aripuanã river, a tributary of the Madeira river, in the area of influence of Dardanelos Power Plant, municipality of Aripuanã, northwestern state of Mato Grosso ($10^{\circ}9'47.02''$ S,

$59^{\circ}26'50.95''$ W and $10^{\circ}8'29.03''$ S, $59^{\circ}26'11.85''$ W, respectively). The area is covered with submontane tropical rainforest, in the Amazon domain.

These specimens of *Platemys p. platycephala* represent the second record for the state of Mato Grosso and the first record in Aripuanã river basin. Locality where they were collected is *ca.* 780 km northwest of the locality in the Culene river (state of Mato Grosso), and *ca.* 625 km south of the nearest locality in the Madeira river (state of Amazonas) (Iverson 1992) (Figure 2).

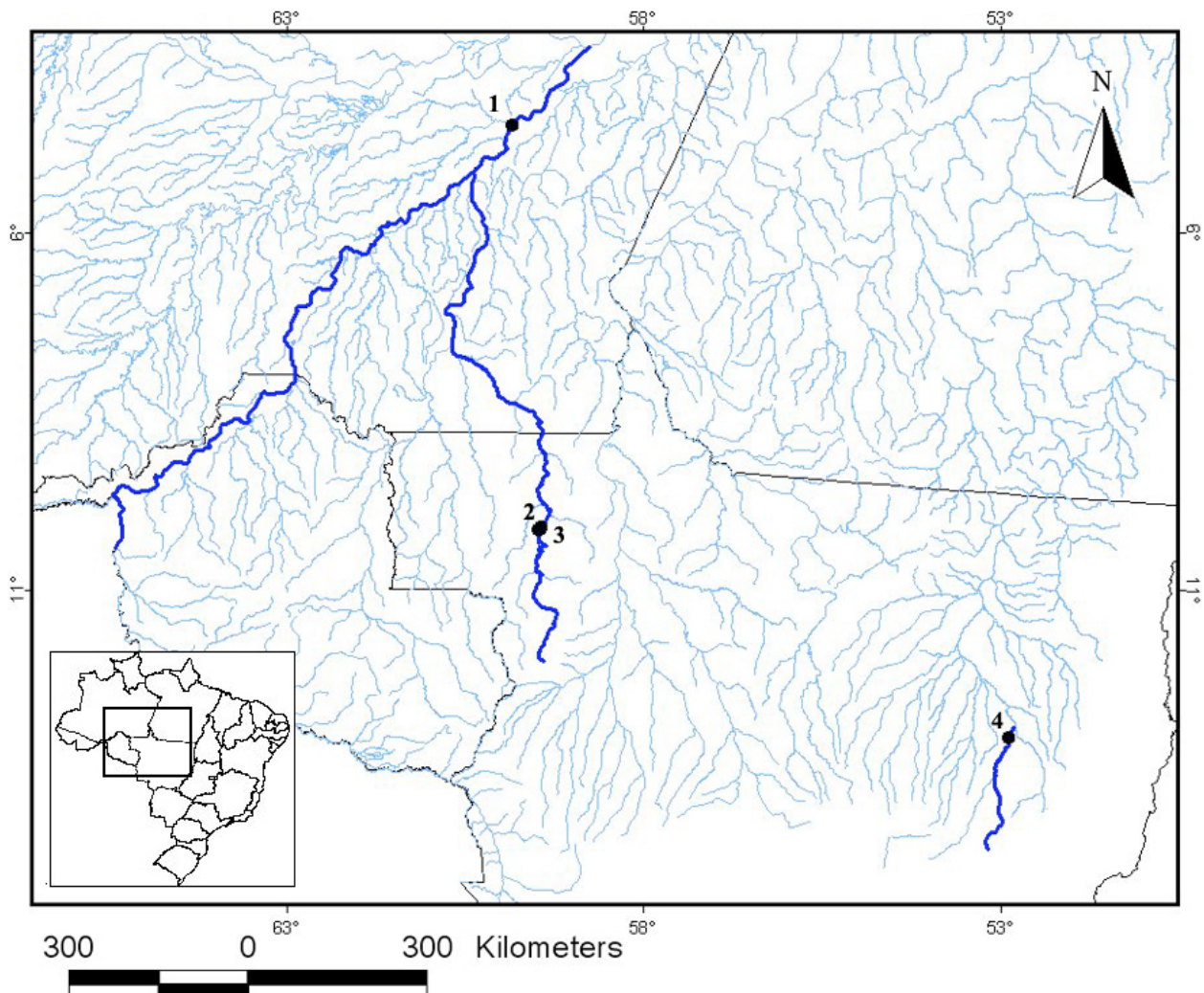


Figure 2. Localities with known occurrence of *Platemys platycephala platycephala* in state of Mato Grosso, Brazil, and the nearest locality in state of Amazonas. 1, Madeira river (Iverson 1992); 2 and 3, Aripuanã river (present work); 4, Culene river (Ernst 1983).

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