

Reptilia, Squamata, Gymnophthalmidae, *Ecleopos gaudichaudi* Duméril and Bibron, 1839: Distribution extension in the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: A new record of the Gymnophthalmid lizard *Ecleopos gaudichaudi* is presented for the state of Santa Catarina, extending its distribution about 50 km southeastward. We also briefly discuss the species nomenclature.

Gymnophthalmidae is a family of lizards widely distributed from southern México to Argentina, comprising around 41 genera and 180 species (Castoe *et al.* 2004; Rodrigues *et al.* 2007). From those, 32 genera and 83 species occur in Brazil (Bérnils 2010). These lizards have small to medium size and occupy a great variety of habitats, and frequently present member reduction and corporal elongation. This group is poorly known, and many species are only known by their descriptions, being rare in scientific collections (Castoe *et al.* 2004; Rodrigues *et al.* 2007).

The genus *Ecleopos* was created by Duméril and Bibron (1839) to comprise their species *Ecleopos gaudichaudi*, described from a single specimen from Brazil, without more data of origin. After that, Peters (1862) included in the genus *Ecleopos* the subgenera *Ecleopos* for *E. gaudichaudi*, *Aspidolaemus* for *E. affinis*, as well as *Pholidobolus*, *Oreosaurus*, *Euspondylus*, *Argalia*, *Xestosaurus*, and *Proctoporus*. Boulenger (1885), in his turn, modified Peters' concept and removed all the subgenera except *Ecleopos* and *Aspidolaemus*. Finally, Uzzell (1969) put the genera *Arthroseps* Boulenger, 1898 in the synonymy of *Ecleopos*, considering *Arthroseps fluminensis* Amaral, 1932, *A. wernerii* Boulenger, 1898, and *Alopoglossus gracilis* Werner, 1913 as juniors synonyms of *Ecleopos gaudichaudi*, and elevated the subgenus *Aspidolaemus* to genus for the species *Ecleopos (Aspidolaemus) affinis*. Since then, the genus *Ecleopos* remains monotypic, although Peters and Donoso-Barros (1970) still have included the species *Aspidolaemus affinis* (currently in the genus *Pholidobolus*) in the genus *Ecleopos* in his Catalogue of Neotropical Squamata, as noticed by Vanzolini (1986).

There follows a brief comment about the nomenclature of the species: Duméril and Bibron (1839) named their new species (*E. gaudichaudi*) after the French botanist Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupré, who sent the specimen to the Natural History Museum of Paris. However, in all the

recent bibliography the name "*gaudichaudii*" is found, a mistake that has been repeated at least since Fitzinger (1843). From all the bibliography we had access to, only Uzzell (1969) kept the original name, which we prefer to follow in this paper.

Ecleopos gaudichaudi is a poorly known species, occurring presumably since Goiás to Santa Catarina, in areas under influence of the Atlantic Tropical Domain (Uzzell 1969; Eiseberg *et al.* 2004; Dixo and Verdade 2006; Bérnils *et al.* 2007; Carvalho *et al.* 2007; Condez *et al.* 2009). The few data available about the species biology indicate that it has generalist diet on arthropods (Eiseberg *et al.* 2004) and is found mainly under the leaf litter of forested areas (Dixo and Verdade 2006; Carvalho *et al.* 2007; Condez *et al.* 2009), although Costa *et al.* (2009) have found this species mainly in old pastures in regeneration stages and even in urban areas.

On 06 February 2009, during a faunistic inventory carried out for the implementation of a conservation unit in the municipality of Itapema, a specimen of *E. gaudichaudi* (CHUFSC 1114; Figure 1) was found under the leaf litter accumulated among the roots of a tree, in an



FIGURE 1. *Ecleopos gaudichaudi* (CHUFSC 1114) from Itapema, Santa Catarina.

area of secondary forest in advanced stage of regeneration (27°03'38" S, 48°36'46" W, 150 m a.s.l.). The specimen was deposited on the herpetological collection of the *Departamento de Ecologia e Zoologia* of the *Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina* (CHUFSC).

This species was known in the state of Santa Catarina only from Blumenau (*Arthroseps wernerii* holotype), Joinville, and the *Alopoglossus gracilis* holotype, apparently lost during the World War II, collected at the valley of the Humboldt River, tributary of the Itapocú River, northern Santa Catarina (Uzzell 1969). All the localities mentioned are situated on the Atlantic slope of northeastern Santa Catarina (Figure 2), originally covered by Atlantic Rain Forest. The present record broadened the species known distribution around 50 km southeast of the previous southern limit (Blumenau).

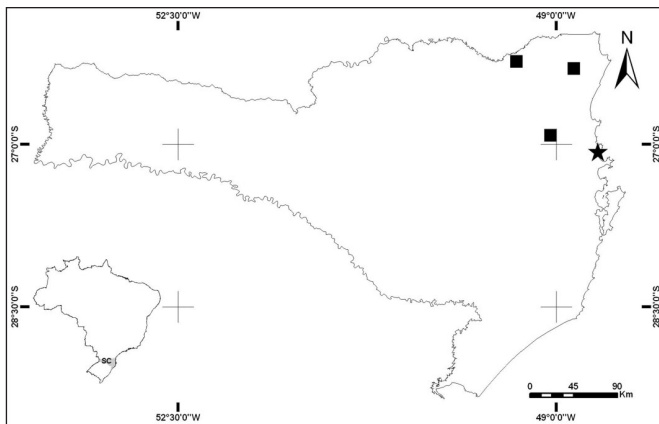


FIGURE 2. Map showing the records of *Ecleopos gaudichaudi* for the state of Santa Catarina. Squares = Records from Uzzell, 1969; star = present record.

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