

# New record and distribution of *Loxosceles amazonica* Gertsch, 1967 (Araneae: Sicariidae) in the state of Ceará, Brazil

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**ABSTRACT:** The spiders of the genus *Loxosceles* Heineken & Lowe, 1832 have a wide distribution in tropical and temperate regions and 30 species have been recorded for South America. The *amazonica* group is represented only by *Loxosceles amazonica*, and there are records from the north, midwest and northeast of Brazil. The aim of this note is to present a new record of *L. amazonica* for the municipal district of Sobral, in the state of Ceará, Brazil and produce a check-list of this species in this state.

The genus *Loxosceles* Heineken & Lowe, 1832, belongs to family Sicariidae and have wide distribution in tropical and temperate regions, being present in the south of Europe, in Africa, and in the Americas (Platnick 2013). Some characteristics are recognizable to this genus as the carapace moderately longer than wider with median groove deep, six eyes subequal in size, long and slender legs, with row of black hairs and heavier setae (Gertsch 1967). Currently, there are 100 species described in the genus, whose 30 species have been recorded for South America (Platnick 2013).

The genus is divided in four groups in South America and all are represented in Brazil: *gaucho*, *laeta*, *spadicea* and *amazonica* groups. The *amazonica* group is represented only by *Loxosceles amazonica* and this species is recorded from north, midwest and northeast of Brazil (Gertsch 1967). In the northeast of Brazil, there are records of occurrence of *L. amazonica* for the states of Bahia (Brazil *et al.* 2009), Paraíba (Albuquerque *et al.* 2004), Pernambuco (Gertsch 1967; Freitas *et al.* 2006) and Piauí (Carvalho and Avelino 2010).

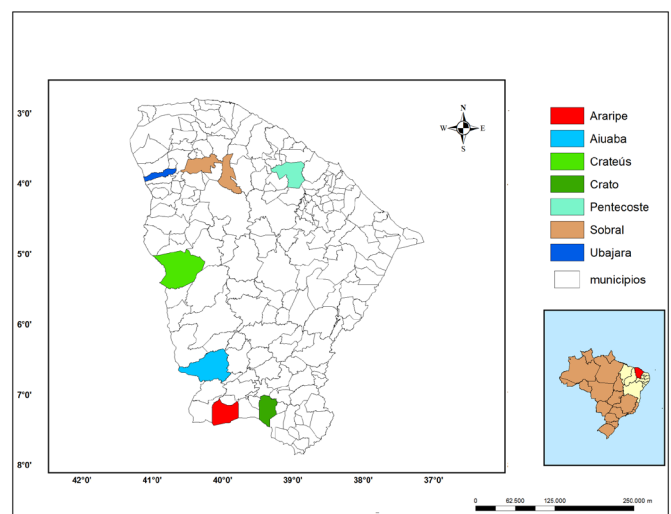
In the natural environments, these spiders can be found in a variety of habitats, such as under rocks, on tree trunks, in caves, in the crevices of the soil, and in both arid and hot environments as well as humid places (Gertsch 1967; Silva and Ferreira 2009).

Three specimens (one female and two juveniles) of *L. amazonica* were collected manually inside a residence located downtown of the Municipality of Sobral (30°41'17.40" S, 40°21'14.28" W). Most of the territorial area of the Municipal District of Sobral is composed open shrubby Caatinga, riparian and carnauba areas (Ipece 2011). The Caatinga Domain is formed by a semi-arid climate. The main type of vegetation is xerophytic, woody, thorny and deciduous vegetation with

a seasonal herbaceous layer associated with scarce rainfall distribution (Velooso *et al.*, 1991).

The specimens were observed and identified using a Stereoscopic Microscopic Leica M50, illuminated with a Fiber Optic illuminator L2 coupled to microscope and identification was done by comparison with material housed in the collection of the Instituto Butantan and description presented by Gertsch (1967).

They were deposited in the Collection of Arachnida and Myriapods of Instituto Butantan, São Paulo (IBSP, curator: D. M. Barros Battesti). The records presented for the state of Ceará were also obtained from collections of Arachnida of the Instituto Butantan, São Paulo (IBSP), and from records found in literature (Table 1), resulting in seven records of occurrence of *L. amazonica* for the state of Ceará (Figure 1).



**FIGURE 1.** Occurrence of *Loxosceles amazonica* in the state of Ceará. Map adapted from IPECE (2011). Geographic coordinates obtained by Datum: SAD69.

**TABLE 1.** Records of *L. amazonica* in the state of Ceará. Data obtained by research at IBSP and literature.

MUNICIPALITIES	COLLECTOR	YEAR	COLLECTION NUMBER IBSP, OR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE
Crato (07°14' S, 39°24' W)	Farias, M.A.A.	1993	IBSP 6009; 5979
Caverna Sobradinho, Sítio Pé Queimado, Aiuaba (06°34' S, 40°7' W)	Trajano, E; Bichuette, M.E; Aparecida, L.A.	2002	IBSP 56059
Caverna Sobradinho, Araripe (07°12' S - 40°2' W)	Trajano, E; Bichuette, M.E; Aparecida, L.A.	2002	IBSP 56061
Interior da Pedra Fedorenta, Crato (07°14' S, 39° 24' W)	Trajano, E; Bichuette, M.E; Aparecida, L.A.	2002	IBSP 56051
Serra das Almas, Crateús (05°10' S - 40°40' W)	Carvalho, M.	2005	Carvalho and Brescovit (2005)
Parque Nacional de Ubajara, Ubajara (03°51' S - 40°55' W)	Loebmann, D.	2007	IBSP 89326
Parque Nacional de Ubajara, Ubajara (03°48' - 03°50' S, 40°52' - 40°55' W)	Silva, M.S.; Ferreira, R.L.	2009	Silva and Ferreira (2009)
Fazenda Experimental da Universidade Federal do Ceará, Pentecoste, (03°49' S, 39°20' W)	Azevedo, R.; Quinet, Y.P.	2009	IBSP (97966-97970)
Sobral (03°41'17.40" S, 40°21' W)	Azevedo, R.; Texeira, P.M.S; Siqueira, R. C.L.	2010	IBSP 161372

All records here presented for the state of Ceará (Table 1) show the preference of this species by the arboreal and shrubby Caatinga and only in Sobral, a specimen was collected for the first time in urban area. For us, this seems to be a problem in the collected areas, since probably the species is common in all urban areas from biome Caatinga, but it is notified only when accidents with people or animals occur, and not regularly in samples to test the diversity of spiders of these areas.

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