

A new species of *Chthonerpeton* (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Typhlonectidae) from Bahia, Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of the *Chthonerpeton indistinctum* group is described from Brazil based on fourteen specimens collected in the Municipality of Conde, State of Bahia. The new species is characterized by 94–103 primary annuli, 100–108 vertebrae, tentacular aperture closer to nares than to eyes, unpigmented cloacal disk and narial plug areas, and by the number of vomeropalatine and dentary teeth that is smaller than that of the other species in the group. The new species is aquatic and fossorial, and can be found swimming actively at night or borrowed in mud in places near the river.

Key words: *Chthonerpeton noctinectes* sp. nov., natural history

Introduction

The Neotropical typhlonectid genus *Chthonerpeton* Peters, 1880 includes seven species (Nussbaum and Wilkinson, 1989, Cascon and Lima-Verde, 1994); all confined to South America. Six species occur in Brazil, one of which, *Chthonerpeton indistinctum* (Reinhardt and Lütken, 1862), also occurs in Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina, and a single species, *Chthonerpeton onorei* Nussbaum, 1986 occurs in northeastern Ecuador, well outside of the range for the majority of the species (Fig. 1). The genus is currently subdivided