



***Amphisbaena uroxena* Mott, Rodrigues, De Freitas and Silva 2008 (Squamata, Amphisbaenidae) shows sexual dimorphism in precloacal pores**

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In 2008, Mott, Rodrigues, De Freitas and Silva (*Journal of Herpetology* 42: 172) described as a new species *Amphisbaena uroxena*, characterized among other features by the presence of conic tubercles concentrated in a circle on the dorsal surface of the tail, an unique feature among South American amphisbaenids. At that time, based only on the three specimens of the type series, all without precloacal pores, they speculated that the absence of pores could be a sex-based difference. In fact, in other amphisbaenid species, the absence of pores in females has been either reported (*A. dubia* and *A. heathi*, Vanzolini 2002; *A. hiata*, Montero & Céspedes 2002) or noticed (*A. anaemariae*, observed by TM).

MAF collected other three individuals of *A. uroxena* at the type locality. All are males, with four rounded, well-marked precloacal pores. Herein we redefine the diagnosis of the species (Table 1) to include sexual dimorphism in precloacal pores. The lower range of body annuli and dorsal segments of *A. uroxena* were slightly expanded (cf. Mott *et al.* 2008) from 210 to 199 and from 14 to 12 respectively. Besides, two and four intercalated body annuli were found in MZUSP 96825 and 96826, whereas only one was seen in the holotype (MZUSP 95987). The right testicle in all individuals is elongated and occupies a more cranial position in relation to the left one, although some overlap between them occurs. This pattern is similar to that observed in other six amphisbaenids already studied (Navega-Gonçalves 2009). Also, like in *A. kingii* the left testicle of *A. uroxena* is larger than the right one, contrary to what was observed in *A. bedai*, *A. microcephala*, *A. vermicularis*, where the right one is the largest or in *A. anomala* and *A. cuiabana* whose testes have the same size. Thus, shape and disposition of amphisbaenid testes varies across taxa. Males of *A. uroxena* seem larger than females, although additional collecting is needed to assess morphological differentiation between the sexes other than precloacal pores.

TABLE 1. *Amphisbaena uroxena* measurements and scale counts. MZUSP = Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. MZUSP 95987, 95988, 95989 are the holotype and paratypes respectively. BA= Body Annuli, TA= Tail Annuli, D/V= Dorsal/Ventral segments at midbody, TL= Total Length (in mm, Snout Vent Length + Tail Length), IA= Number of Intercalated Body Annuli, * undetermined.

MZUSP number	95987	95988	95989	96824	96825	96826	Known range	Extended range
sex	F	F	*	Male	Male	Male		
Precloacal pores	0	0	0	4	4	4	0	0=Female 4=Male
BA	210	213	211	208	202	199	210–213	199–213
TA	13	12	13	12	12	12	12–13	12–13
D/V	14/15	14/15	14/14	13/14	14/14	12/14	14/ 14–15	12–14/ 14–15
IA	1	0	0	4	2	0	0 1	0–4
TL	108 (99+9)	*	*	173 (163+10)	164 (152+12)	163 (153+10)	*	108–163