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Catalogue of distribution of lizards (Reptilia: Squamata) from the Brazilian Amazonia. I. Dactyloidae, Hoplocercidae, Iguanidae, Leiosauridae, Polychrotidae, Tropiduridae

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Abstract

I present distribution data of all Dactyloidae, Hoplocercidae, Iguanidae, Leiosauridae, Polychrotidae and Tropiduridae lizards known from the Brazilian Amazonia, totaling 40 species-level taxa, belonging to 11 genera. This represents four more species-level taxa than previously reported for these families. Data were based on the direct examination of 41,243 specimens deposited in three North American and eight Brazilian musea, including the main collections harboring Amazonian material. Most species (62.5%) are endemic to the Amazonia; non-endemic species are mainly associated with open dry (semideciduous) forest or open vegetation (savanna) enclaves in Amazonia, with a few exceptions. As a whole, seven taxa are widespread in Amazonia, one is restricted to eastern Amazonia, three to western Amazonia, five to northern Amazonia (either in part of it or widespread in the Guiana region), two to northwestern Amazonia, one to southern Amazonia, nine to southwestern Amazonia, and seven to the southern peripheral portion of Amazonia. Five species have unique distributions and five species have a distribution that is congruent with one of the areas of endemism (AE) recognized for other organisms (birds and primates). The first herpetological gazetteer for the Brazilian Amazonia with about 3,600 georeferenced localities was also produced.

Key words: Iguanian lizards, Brazilian Amazonia, distribution, gazetteer

Introduction

The Amazonia represents the largest continuous humid tropical forest in the world, and 60% of its area, estimated to cover 389.3 x 10^6 ha (Eva *et al.* 2012), lies in Brazil. It harbors a biodiversity that is among the richest in the world, but at the same time it experiences an ongoing deforestation process, with rates that reached 2.24–2.55 x 10^6 ha/year during 2000–2005 (Eva *et al.* 2012). Despite deforestation rates seem to be going down (INPE 2012), new (or improved) roads, hydroelectric power plants, mining activities, and other enterprises are now penetrating the region, no longer affecting only its borders, but threatening to fragment the whole region, with unknown consequences. In order to establish efficient conservation policies, knowledge of the distribution of its fauna is important and this is still deficient for the region.

Ávila-Pires (1995) presented the first revision of the lizards from Brazilian Amazonia, but since then research efforts increased substantially. Many new localities were surveyed, new specimens collected, new species described and some new regional collections established. Besides, data from the herpetological collection of the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil (MZUSP), arguably the largest in South America and not previously accessed, have been added. Recovering and organizing such data, which are scattered in the literature or restricted to collection databases, not infrequently linked to specimens awaiting proper identification or to misidentified specimens, is therefore an efficient way of advancing our knowledge.

This paper is part of a project that analyzes the diversity, distribution and conservation status of Brazilian Amazonian lizards. In order to do that, I produced the most complete actual distribution map of each lizard species with at least one record in the Brazilian Amazonia. Here I present data on Dactyloidae, Hoplocercidae, Iguanidae, Leiosauridae, Polychrotidae, and Tropiduridae (families of the infraorder Iguania known from Brazilian Amazonia). The taxonomic status of the genus *Anolis* (sensu lato) has been unstable and in constant change (see Nicholson *et al*. 2012; 2014; Poe 2013). However, since *Anolis* is monophyletic as previsously defined, I prefer here to be conservative, keeping the genus name *Anolis* for continuity with the recent literature.

Material and methods

Distribution data were obtained from 41,243 specimens deposited in the following herpetological collections (museum acronyms in parenthesis): Universidade de Brasília, Brasília D.F. (CHUNB); Instituto de Pesquisas Científicas e Tecnológicas do Estado do Amapá, Macapá (IEPA); Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus (INPA; APL); Faculdades Integradas do Tapajós, Santarém (LPHA); Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ); Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém (MPEG); Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo (MZUSP); and Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas (ZUEC)—all in Brazil; American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH); Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge (MCZ); and National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington