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# New pored *Leposternon* (Squamata, Amphisbaenia) from Brazilian Cerrado

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## Abstract

A new species of *Leposternon* is described from the Brazilian Cerrado, southwestern Goiás state. The new species is diagnosed mainly by the following characters: two–four precloacal pores, 299–341 dorsal postpectoral half-annuli, 302–349 ventral postpectoral half-annuli, 13–15 tail annuli, 118–121 precloacal vertebrae, two supralabials, two infralabials, five series of large plates in dorsal head shields, diamond-shaped pectoral scales, head length 2.6–3.2% snout-vent length, rostronasal length 20.4–23.1% head length, azygous width 30.8–41.9% head width, azygous length 40.1–51.4% head length, frontal length 23.7–38.2% head length, and prefrontal length 37.2–44.4% head length. The new species here described is the only known *Leposternon* restricted to the Cerrado region. Additionally, we present an updated check list of non-fossil amphisbaenians according to ecoregions in the Brazilian territory.

**Key words:** Amphisbaenidae, *Leposternon cerradensis* sp. nov., taxonomy, check list, Central Brazil

## Introduction

The South American amphisbaenian genus *Leposternon* Wagler, 1824 is composed of fossorial squamate reptiles characterized by the following characters: relatively large and robust body, head always dorsoventrally compressed, nostrils opening on the ventral surface of snout, suture connecting each nostril to the edge of mouth, rostral and nasals fused into a single shield, rostronasal shield (= rostral plus nasal) followed by a sequence of one to five enlarged shields along the dorsal surface of head, gular portion without segmental cover, more than two dermal annuli per vertebrae, tail very short with rounded tip, autotomic site absent on tail, and none to two preocloacal pores (Gans 1971a; Porto *et al*. 2000).

Currently *Leposternon* is represented by seven species: *L. infraorbitale* (Berthold), *L. kisteumacheri* Porto, Soares & Caramaschi, *L. microcephalum* Wagler, *L. octostegum* (Duméril), *L. polystegum* (Duméril), *L. scutigerum* (Hemprich), and *L. wuchereri* (Peters). They are distinguishable mainly by the morphology of cephalic shields, number of body annuli and body and tail segments, number of vertebrae, and presence or absence of precloacal pores (Gans 1971a; Porto *et al.* 2000). Among the described species only two present precloacal pores: *L. polystegum*, which occurs on central, northern and northeastern Brazil in the Amazon, Atlantic Forest, Caatinga, and Cerrado phytogeographic regions (Gans 1971a); and *L. kisteumacheri*, which occurs on northwestern of Minas Gerais state, Brazil, on the Cerrado/Caatinga contact zone, where deciduous tropical dry forest predominates (Porto *et al.* 2000).

With the exception of *Leposternon microcephalum*, recorded from Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, and Uru-

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