



A new species of *Bachia* Gray, 1845 (Squamata: Gymnophthalmidae) from the Cerrado of Midwestern Brazil

JOSEANA LUISA DE FREITAS¹, CHRISTINE STRÜSSMANN², MARCOS ANDRÉ DE CARVALHO³, RICARDO ALEXANDRE KAWASHITA-RIBEIRO⁴ & TAMÍ MOTT⁵

¹Programa de Pós Graduação em Biologia Animal, Universidade de Brasília, Campus Universitário Darcy Ribeiro, CEP 70910-900, Brasília, Distrito Federal, Brasil. E-mail: joseanafreitas@yahoo.com.br

²Departamento de Ciências Básicas e Produção Animal, Faculdade de Agronomia, Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Av. Fernando Correia da Costa 2367, CEP 78060-900, Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brasil. E-mail: christine@ufmt.br

³Departamento de Biologia e Zoologia, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Av. Fernando Correia da Costa 2367, CEP 78060-900, Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brasil. E-mail: col_zoologica@ufmt.br

⁴Coleção Zoológica, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso. Av. Fernando Correia da Costa 2367, CEP 78060-900, Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brasil. E-mail: serpentesbr@gmail.com

⁵Departamento de Biologia e Zoologia, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Av. Fernando Correia da Costa 2367, CEP 78060-900, Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brasil. E-mail: tami@ufmt.br

Abstract

A new species of *Bachia* is described from two localities in the states of Mato Grosso and Rondônia, in Midwestern Brazil. The new species mostly resembles *Bachia bresslaui* in pholidosis and biometry, differing from this and from all other taxa from *bresslaui* group by the presence of two clawed digits in the forefeet.

Key words: *Bachia*, new species, Mato Grosso State, Rondônia State, two digits, *bresslaui* group

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Bachia* é descrita de duas localidades situadas nos estados de Mato Grosso e Rondônia, no centro-oeste brasileiro. A nova espécie assemelha-se a *Bachia bresslaui* em foliose e biometria, distinguindo-se desta e das demais espécies do grupo *bresslaui* pela presença de dois dígitos com garras nos membros locomotores anteriores.

Introduction

Among the 26 genera presently included in the family Gymnophthalmidae (Pellegrino *et al.* 2001), the genus *Bachia* comprises 21 species (Rodrigues *et al.* 2008) of snake-like lizards with reduced eyes and appendages, lacking external ears, and presenting semi- and/or fossorial habits (Dixon 1973). Reduction in the number or even the loss of digits, as well as of other skeletal elements and head scales, together with reduction of eyes, of external ear openings, and reduction or elongation of internal organs, are usually considered adaptations to a fossorial lifestyle (Dixon 1973; see also Galis *et al.* 2009 and references therein). Some of these traits may also be associated to the use of microhabitats of dense vegetation (Lande 1978; Gans 1985, 1986; Shine 1986; Pinto & Ávila-Pires 2004). Representatives of the genus *Bachia* are distributed both in forested and open areas in the Neotropics, from Costa Rica to Paraguay, and in some of the Caribbean islands (Castrillon & Strüßmann 1998). Based on morphological similarities, Dixon (1973) classified the species into four groups: *bresslaui*, *dorbignyi*, *heteropa*, and *flavescens*. Although not supported by recent molecular studies (*e.g.*, Kohlsdorf & Wagner 2006; Kohlsdorf *et al.* 2010), this classification is still in use (see Rodrigues *et al.* 2008), due to the lack of a new consensual proposal.