

# Amphibia, Anura, Hemiphractidae, *Hemiphractus helioi* Sheil and Mendelson, 2001: Distribution extension in the state of Acre and second record for Brazil

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**ABSTRACT:** We report the second records of *Hemiphractus helioi* from Brazil based on specimens collected during field studies in forest of Mõa River, Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre. These new records extended the range of this species about 100 km to the east from the nearest collection site known in Parque Nacional da Serra do Divisor.

The Alto Juruá region is located at the northwestern limits of Brazil and it is known for exhibiting high amphibian species richness; 125 species of frogs occur only in Parque Nacional da Serra do Divisor (Souza 2009). Despite the region's high diversity, the knowledge on amphibians from Alto Juruá is based only on a few studies (e.g. Martins and Cardoso 1987; Cardoso and Vielliard 1990; Gascon 1996; Bernarde et al. 1999; Caldwell 2005; Souza 2009).

The horned treefrog *Hemiphractus helioi* was described by Sheil and Mendelson III (2001), and has been wrongly identified for almost a century (Noble, 1917) as *H. johnsoni*, an endangered species according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Silvano and Segalla 2005).

The current geographic range of *H. helioi* comprises the upper Amazon Basin and the lower Amazon slopes of the Andes, from Ecuador to northern Bolivia (Sheil and Mendelson 2001) and Brazil (as *H. johnsoni*) (Silvano and Segalla 2005). Köhler (in litt. *apud* Frost 2009) suggested that the record by Sheil and Mendelson III (2001) in



**FIGURE 2.** Specimen of *Hemiphractus helioi* found on the vegetation (40 cm above ground) at night on 15 December 2008 in Mõa River forest, municipality of Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil.

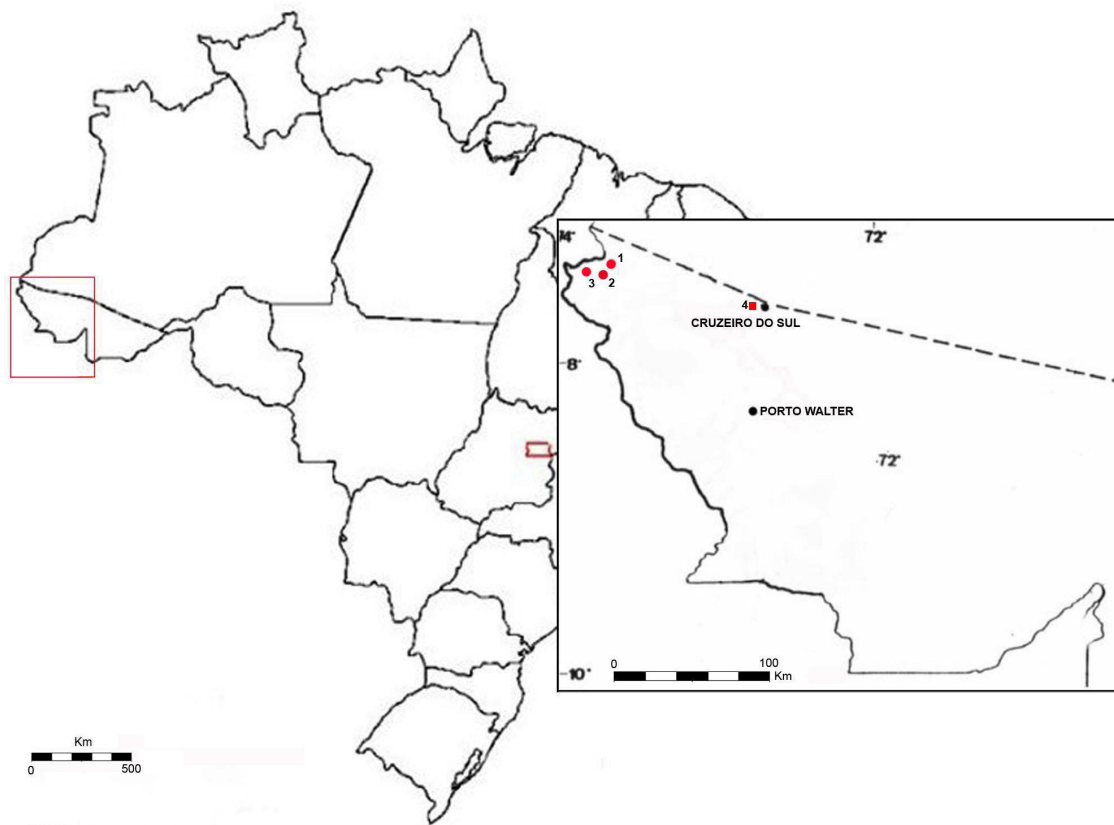
northern Bolivia was wrong. Recently, this species was reported in Brazil (as *H. helioi*), in Parque Nacional da Serra do Divisor (Souza 2009), near Peru. Based on specimens collected during field studies in the lowland forest of Mõa River in Acre, we extended the range of this species and made its second record in Brazil.

On November 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 and on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 two individuals of *H. helioi* were collected in the lowland forest of Mõa River (7°38'23.9" S, 72°47'43.1" W), municipality of Cruzeiro do Sul, state of Acre, northern Brazil (collecting permits granted by Ibama (SISBIO) #12178-1 and #12178-2). They were found in a primary forest at night, perching on the vegetation at 40 and 100 cm above the ground (Figures 1 and 2). The specimens were deposited in the herpetological collection of Universidade Federal do Acre - Campus Floresta (UFACF 1191, 1257).

These new records from the lowland forest of Mõa River in Cruzeiro do Sul extended the range of this species about 100 km to the east (Figure 3) from the nearest collection site known in Parque Nacional da Serra do Divisor (Souza 2009).



**FIGURE 1.** Specimen of *Hemiphractus helioi* found on the vegetation (1 m above ground) at night on 13 November 2008 in Mõa River forest, municipality of Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, Brazil.



**FIGURE 3.** Map of Brazil showing the state of Acre and the known distribution of *Hemiphractus helioi*. Red circles indicate the three localities of the records: 1 = Rio Mõa, casa do Piroca, P. N. Serra do Divisor; 2 = Trilha do Anil, P. N. Serra do Divisor; 3 = Igarapé Ramon, P. N. Serra do Divisor; 4 = Mõa River lowland forest, Cruzeiro do Sul.

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