

Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia

ON THE THIRD SPECIMEN OF *BACHIA BRESSLAUI* (SAURIA, TEIIDAE)

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Bachia bresslaui is known from only two specimens. Amaral (1935) described the species with only one specimen, reported to be from the interior of the state of São Paulo. The second specimen was reported by Vanzolini (1966), from Utiariti, Mato Grosso. This species is of special interest because it has the greatest limb reduction in the genus. Both fore and hind limbs are conical tabs, completely without digits, as in *Ophiognomon*. The two genera appear closely related, but they evidently acquired some of their adaptations in parallel (limb reduction and increase in number of pre-sacral vertebrae). They are unequivocally distinguished by the contact of the anterior nasal scales in *Ophiognomon* and the separation of these scales by the rostral and frontonasal in *Bachia*. The hyoid musculature of one *Ophiognomon* is quite distinct from that of the two species of *Bachia* I have dissected.

I recently obtained a third specimen of *B. bresslaui*. It was donated by Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, Brazil. It attracted my interest by its very large size, which would facilitate some of my dissections. I am very grateful to A. R. Hoge for his generosity in this and many other instances. I am also indebted to Thomas Uzzell for his help in obtaining some of the pertinent literature.

The specimen bore an Instituto Butantan metal field tag, number 216. The field notebook gave the locality as Brasília, D.F., and the collection date was 14 August 1961. The specimen is still in my possession. When I have completed my dissections, it will be donated to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.

Data of systematic usefulness are listed here. In parentheses, following the condition in this specimen, are the conditions found in the other two specimens, the type first, separated from the condition in the second specimen by a semicolon.

Total length — 259 mm (180; 226). Snout to vent length — 106 mm (75; 75). Head length — 11 mm (15; ?). Tail length — 153 mm — regenerated (105; 151 — entire). The tail of this specimen appears entire on the surface, but since it was relatively shorter than in the second specimen, it was dissected and found to be regenerated. This is

the only case I am aware of in teiids where a regenerated tail has perfectly regular scalation. The body is 6.5 mm in diameter.

In this specimen the first supraocular contacts the nasal on the left side, but not on the right (in contact; in contact). Frontal, parietal, first supraocular and second supraocular meet in four-point contact (parietal and first supraoccipital in contact; frontal and second supraoccipital in contact).

Scale rows around mid-body 33-34 (35; 35). Longitudinal rows of ventrals — 39 (38; 38). Scales between gulars and interbranchials 9 (9; 9). Femoral and preanal pores — 1+1, 1+1 (?; 1+1, 1+2). Preanal scales — 5 (5; 5). There can be little doubt that this specimen is *Brachia bresslaui*. It differs from the other two specimens surprisingly little. The color pattern fits the literature descriptions in all regards.

The third specimen of *Bachia bresslaui* is a female with ovarian follicles but with no eggs in the oviducts. The type was reported to possibly be a female. The sex of the second specimen was not reported.

The stomach of this specimen contained the remains of two lycosid (wolf) spiders. These were moderately large for the size of the lizard; the interocular distance of one was 1 mm and there were leg segments up to 4 mm in length (estimated body length 20 mm). Many lycosids are nocturnal and sleep in burrows in the ground during the day. It would be interesting to know how these were captured.

The type locality is unknown — Amaral reported that the specimen was from the interior of the state of São Paulo. Vanzolini (1966) doubted that this was accurate because it is well out of the range for the genus and because his specimen was from at least 700 miles (1120 km) to the northwest. The Brasília locality is much closer to São Paulo than it is to Utiariti, lending some credence to the reported provenance of the type. At present it seems reasonable to conclude that *bresslaui* is a wide-spread and exceedingly rare species. If it occurs in the state of São Paulo, it is the southernmost representative of the genus.

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