

A NEW SPECIES OF *AMPHISBAENA* FROM CENTRAL BRASIL
(SQUAMATA: AMPHISBAENIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of Amphisbaena is described from cerrados of Central Brasil. It is a small species (SVL to 120 mm) closest to A. vermicularis, and characterized by having four preanal pores, 206-228 body annuli, 25-29 caudal annuli, autotomy level at tail annulus 6-8, 12-14/16-18 segments at midbody.

KEYWORDS. *Amphisbaena*, Central Brasil, Squamata, Amphisbaenidae.

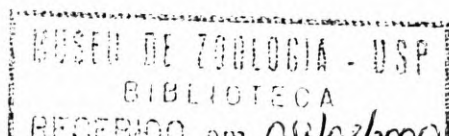
INTRODUCTION

In recent years two species of *Amphisbaena* have been described from the cerrados of Central Brasil: *A. talisiae* Vanzolini, 1995, from southeastern Mato Grosso and *A. anaemariae* Vanzolini, 1997, from Serra da Mesa, Goiás. From the latter locality a new species is here described.

The Serra da Mesa materials are the result of conservation measures (“Operação Lobo Guará”) taken on the site of a hydroelectric dam, under the direction of Dr. Nelson Jorge da Silva Jr., to whom thanks are due. Dr. P. E. Vanzolini oriented this work.

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***Amphisbaena mensae*, sp. n.**

Holotype: MZUSP 83231, Brasil: Goiás: Serra da Mesa, Setor 2 (14° 02'S, 48° 19'W), 26.xi.96. Field number 6413.

Paratypes: same locality as holotype, MZUSP 83232, 31.xii.96, field number 17152; MZUSP 83233, 14.i.97, field number 20645; MZUSP 83234, 21.i.97, field number 21720; MZUSP 83236, 20.i.97, field number 22549.

Etymology: The name refers to the type locality.

Diagnosis: A small species (SVL to 120 mm.) with four preanal pores rounded and regular, 206-228 body annuli, 25-29 caudal annuli, autotomy level at tail annulus 6-8, 12-14/16-18 segments at midbody. Closest to *A. vermicularis*, which has also four preanal pores, 211-254 + 23-30 annuli, autotomy at annulus 6, 18-26/18-25 segments at midbody.

DESCRIPTION

Slender. Snout rounded, somewhat prominent. Tail a little narrower than body. Autotomy ring ill-defined. Lateral line distinct.

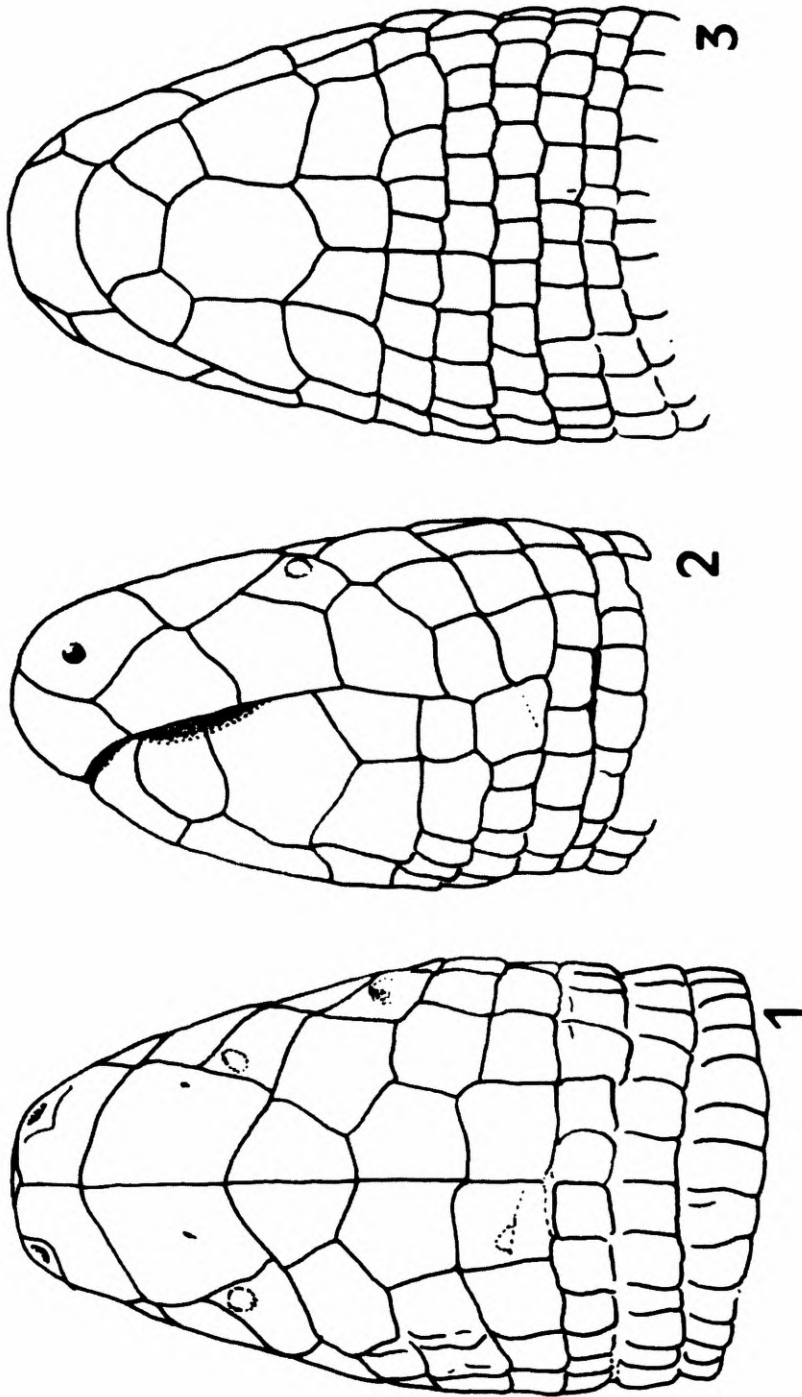
Dorsum brown; top of head brown, at times with lighter scales. Sutures on the dorsal surfaces lighter than background. The color of the dorsum extends to about the eighth ventral segment; some annuli entirely brown.

Rostral small, sub-triangular. Prefrontals large, in contact with the ocular and the second upper labial. Frontals small. One post-ocular. Supralabials three; the first under the nasal, the second and third under the ocular. Symphyisial small, four-sided. Infralabials three, the second largest. Lateral genials large, trapezoidal; median genials large, regular, also trapezoidal.

Dorsal segments longer than wide; ventral segments wider than long.

Measurements:

MZUSP	Body length	Tail length	Head width
83231	120	18	2,8
83232	130	21	3
83233	115	18	2,3
83234	129	19	2,6
83235	115	17	2,3
83236	118	-	2,7



Figs. 1-3. *Amphisbaena mensae*, sp. n. Holotype.

Table 1. *Amphisbaena mensae*, *A. anaemariae* and *A. vermicularis*: scale counts

	N	R	m	S	V
<i>A. mensae</i>					
Body annuli	6	206-228	214.7(3.07)	7,53	3,51
Tail annuli	5	25-29	26.8(0.66)	1,48	5,53
Dorsal segments	6	12-14	12.5(0.34)	0,84	6,69
Ventral segments	6	16-18	16.3(0.33)	0,82	5,0
<i>A. anaemariae</i>					
Body annuli	20	156-171	16.6(1.04)	4,64	2,82
Tail annuli	17	17-21	19.1(0.25)	1,05	5,51
Dorsal segments	20	12-17	15.0(0.29)	1,3	8,65
Ventral segments	20	14-18	16.3(0.24)	1,08	6,63
<i>A. vermicularis</i>					
Body annuli	184	224-249	237.75(0.34)	4,64	1,95
Tail annuli	122	24-31	28.43(0.11)	1,27	4,47
Dorsal segments	183	18-25	21.61(0.10)	1,35	6,28
Ventral segments	183	20-27	23.74(0.91)	1,24	5,21

N, individuals in sample. R, range. m, mean (its standard deviation).s, sample standard deviaton. V, coefficient of variation.

REFERENCES

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