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First record of *Amblyomma rotundatum* Koch, 1844 (Acari: Ixodidae) parasitizing *Paleosuchus palpebrosus* Cuvier, 1807 (Reptilia:Crocodylidae), in the western border of Pantanal, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

Drausio H. Morais*[1], Christine Strüssmann[2], Vinícius T. de Carvalho[3] and Ricardo A. Kawashita-Ribeiro[4]

Abstract. This is the first record of *Amblyomma rotundatum* parasitizing *Paleosuchus palpebrosus.* This record was made during a herpetofaunal study carried out in high-elevation habitats that are under protection in the mountain range "Serra do Amolar", located in the western border of Brazilian Pantanal, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul.

Keywords. *Amblyomma rotundatum*, Parasitism, *Paleosuchus palpebrosus*, Pantanal, Brazil.

This report represents the first record of a specimen of *Amblyomma rotundatum* Koch, 1844, in adult stage, parasitizing a Cuvier's dwarf caiman, *Paleosuchus palpebrosus* Cuvier, 1807, in high-elevation habitats that are under protection in the mountain range "Serra do Amolar", located in the western border of Brazilian Pantanal, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul.

On October 30th, 2002, at 8:30 p.m., we captured an adult female specimen of *P. palpebrosus* (snout-vent length 620 mm; tail length 558 mm; body mass 6,200 g) in a remnant pond located in the course of a temporary, small (2 m width) stream (17º51'S, 57º33'W). While examining this specimen for injuries and/or parasites, we found an adult female *A. rotundatum* adhered to the ventral surface of its left thigh. The tick was then stored in "Coleção Acarológica" at Butantan Institute (São Paulo, Brazil), where it received the accession number IBSP 9311. Further 10 *P. palpebrosus* specimens were captured and examined during the study at Amolar, but none was parasitized by *A. rotundatum*, which resulted in a prevalence of 9 %.

Terrestrial migration in search of more suitable habitats may increase the possibility of a dwarf caiman becoming infected with ticks searching for a host. Although well adapted to aquatic life, crocodilians are frequently observed moving overland; they can travel considerable distances for quite distinct reasons (Neill, 1971; Lang, 1987).

The current report on *P. palpebrosus* parasitism by *A. rotundatum* in the western border of Pantanal evidences the terrestrial movements of this species and contributes to the knowledge of the tick fauna composition and distribution in the studied region, which is presently under-inventoried. It also evidences new and insightful possibilities for the study of parasite-host interactions involving the reptilian fauna in Pantanal.

References

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1 Universidade Estadual Paulista, Instituto de Biociências, Departamento de Parasitologia. Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Biológicas – Zoologia. Distrito de Rubião Jr., s/nº, CEP 18618-000, Botucatu, SP, Brazil; e-mail: amblyommavt@gmail.com

2 Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso - Depto. de Ciências Básicas e Produção Animal – Faculdade de Agronomia e Medicina Veterinária. Avenida Fernando Corrêa da Costa 2367, CEP 78060-900, Cuiabá, MT, Brazil;

3 Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia. Campus Universitário II, Aleixo, CEP 69011-970, Manaus, Amazônia, Brazil;

4 Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Instituto de Biociências, Coleção Zoológica de Vertebrados. Avenida Fernando Corrêa da Costa s/n. CEP 78060-900. Cuiabá, MT, Brazil.

* Corresponding author

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