

New state record of *Lithobates palmipes* (Spix, 1824) (Anura: Ranidae) in Brazil

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Currently, 342 species of ranid frogs (family Ranidae) are recognized and clustered into and sixteen genera. The family is cosmopolitan except for southern South America and most of Australia (Frost, 2010). The genus *Lithobates* is represented in Brazil by two species: *Lithobates castebeianus* (Shaw, 1802), an introduced species for commercial use, and *Lithobates palmipes*

(Spix, 1824) (SBH, 2010). Species in the *Lithobates palmipes* clade are characterized by having fused sacral and pre-sacral vertebrae and the presence of distinct darks lateral borders along the dorsolateral folds (Hillis and de Sá, 1988).

Lithobates palmipes is considered a generalist and sinantropic species occurring in marginal areas of rivers, ponds and, “igarapés” from Amazonia domain, typically in forested areas, but sometimes also found in open areas. In Brazil the species was recorded in the states of Acre (not shown on map), Alagoas, Amazonas, Bahia, Mato Grosso, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, and Rio Grande do Norte (Hillis and de Sá, 1988; Barros, 2005; Canedo and Bilate, 2005; Sousa, 2009). Colli et al. (2002) indicate the presence of *L. palmipes* in the Cerrado biome, but do not precisely indicate the

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Figure 1. *Lithobates palmipes* (ZUFG 4727) collected in Piranhas municipality, State of Goiás, Central Brazil.

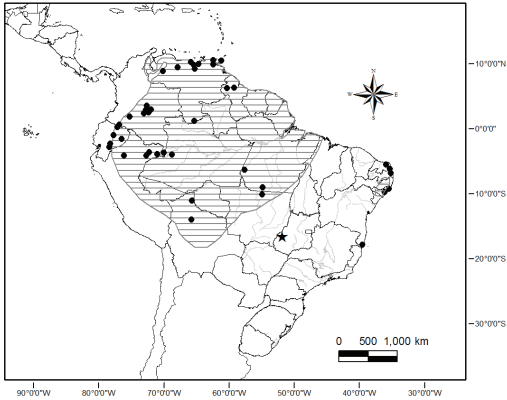


Figure 2. Distribution map of *Lithobates palmipes*. Closed circles represent literature data (Hillis and de Sá, 1988, Barros, 2005, and Canedo and Bilate 2005), delimited area represent data from IUCN (2010) and the star represent the new record in State of Goiás, Central Brazil.

location of occurrence. This frog presents diurnal and nocturnal activities. Populations under the specific name *L. palmipes* could comprise a species complex (La Marca *et al.*, 2004).

On 19 October 2009, approximately at 22:00 h, a specimen of *Lithobates palmipes* (Figure 1) (ZUFGE 4727) was captured in a secondary road (-16.580° S, -51.786° W) near to the highway BR-158 and the Hydroelectric Power Plant reservoir of Piranhas, in Piranhas Municipality, state of Goiás, Central Brazil (Figure 2). The specimen was identified by morphological diagnoses provided by Hillis and de Sá (1988). The region is part of the Cerrado biome (*sensu* Ratter, 1997) holding the following phytogeographies (*sensu* Ribeiro and Walter, 1998): cerrado *stricto sensu*, pasture, and ciliary forest. The area is drained by Piranhas River and contributes to the Araguaia River's sub-basin. Furthermore, it represents an important biogeographical record for the known distribution of *Lithobates palmipes* given that it occurs in a contact zone of the Cerrado biome with others biomes in South American; such contact areas have been suggested as areas that enable the occurrence of atypical species (Vaz-Silva and Andrade, 2009).

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