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Morphometry of hatchlings of *Tropidurus hispidus* (Spix, 1825) (Squamata: Tropiduridae)

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Tropidurus hispidus (Spix, 1825) is the largest species of the genus (Rodrigues, 1987), being classified as a sit-and-wait forager (Rodrigues, 1987; Colli; Paiva, 1997) with a diet composed predominantly by insects (Vitt *et al*., 1996). These lizards are habitat generalists, observed mainly on rocky surfaces (Vitt *et al*., 1996; Vitt *et al*., 1997; Van Sluys, *et al.*, 2004), on ground in areas of forest edge (Carvalho; Vilar, 2005), and on tree trunks and sandy floors, among other kinds of substrate (Rodrigues, 1987). The species has a widely geographical distribution (Rodrigues, 1988), occurring in northeastern South America from Venezuela to the south of Minas Gerais state in Brazil (Rodrigues, 1987; Ávila-Pires, 1995). In Brazil, *T. hispidus* has a uniform and apparently continuous distribution in the Caatinga biome, also occurring in areas of coastal sand dunes in Restinga habitat (Atlantic Rainforest biome), in various locations in the transition zone between the Caatinga and the Atlantic Rainforest ("agreste"), in the "campos rupestres" of Serra do Espinhaço range (Cerrado biome) and in enclaves of open formations in Amazonia north to the Amazon River (Amazon biome) (Rodrigues, 1987; Rodrigues, 1988; Carvalho, Villar; Oliveira, 2005).

Six eggs of *Tropidurus hispidus* were found on June 06rd, 2008 in the National Park Serra da Itabaiana (PNSI; 10° 40'S; 37° 25'W), a transition zone between Caatinga and Atlantic Rainforest biomes ("agreste" region), situated 35 km from Aracaju municipality, in the state of Sergipe, northeastern Brazil. The eggs were buried together on humid sandy ground at a depth of approximately 10 cm and protected from direct contact with sunlight. They were taken to the laboratory and incubated in a terrarium containing moist sand until hatching.

It was not possible to estimate the total period of eggs incubation due to not knowing the laying date. The egg hatching occurred after 10 (n = 01 eggs) to 12 (n = 04 eggs) days since the beginning of the incubation at the lab, and only one of them failed to hatch. The hatchlings lizards were immediately measured and weighed. For each lizard were registered the snout-vent length (SVL), the tail length (TL), the head length (distance of the tip of the snout to the posterior margin of the sehlls after parietal; HL) and the head width (HW) with a digital caliper (precision of 0,1 mm). The body mass was registered with a electronic balance (precision of 0,1 g).

The mean snout-vent length (SVL) of *T. hispidus* hatchlings in the National Park Serra da Itabaiana was 27.6 ± 0.4mm and the mean body mass was 0.62 ± 0.08g (Table 1). Similar morphometric measures were registered for *T. hispidus* hatchlings in the State Park of Dunas in the municipality of Natal, state of Rio Grande do Norte, northeastern Brazil, (SVL = 28.0 ± 0.5 mm, tail length = 46.0 ± 2.4, head length = 9.2 ± 0.3, head width = 6.3 ± 0.3; body mass = 0.53 ± 0.13 g, n = 09) Ribeiro *et al.*, 2008). Data of this kind are very important due to the difficulty of collecting and its scarcity in the literature.

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Table 1. Date of hatch, mass (in g) and morphometry (in mm) of the hatchlings of *Tropidurus hispidus* in the National Park Serra da Itabaiana, Aracaju, Sergipe state, northeastern Brazil. SVL = snout-vent length, TL = tail length, HL = head length and HW = head width.

Number of Individuals	Date of Hatch	Mass	SVL	TL	HL	HW
1	16/06/2008	0.50	27.3	44.7	9.2	6.4
2	17/06/2008	0.60	27.3	44.6	9.3	5.9
3	17/06/2008	0.60	27.3	40.1	8.9	5.9
4	17/06/2008	0.70	28.1	42.0	8.8	6.0
5	18/06/2008	0.70	28.0	42.4	8.6	5.9
Mean	-	0.62	27.6	42.8	9.0	6.0
Standard Deviation	-	0.08	0.4	1.9	0.3	0.2

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