

Distribution extension of *Amphisbaena ibijara* Rodrigues, Andrade & Lima, 2003 (Squamata: Amphisbaenidae)

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The geographic distribution and biology of amphisbaenians are poorly known (Barros-Filho and Valverde, 1996), mainly due to their fossorial habits, which make them difficult to collect and observe (Navega-Gonçalves, 2009). Currently, *Amphisbaena* L. comprises 103 species widely distributed in Central and South America (Pinna et al., 2010; Gomes et al., 2012; Roberto et al., 2014). There are 69 species currently known in Brazil (Bérnils and Costa, 2012; Gomes and Maciel, 2012; Roberto et al., 2014) and eight of these occur in the state of Maranhão in Northern Brazil (*A. alba* Linnaeus, 1758; *A. anomala* Barbour, 1914; *A. fuliginosa* Linnaeus, 1758; *A. ibijara* Rodrigues, Andrade and Lima, 2003; *A. maranhensis* Gomes and Maciel, 2012; *A. mitchelli* Procter, 1923; *Leposternon polystegum* Duméril, 1851; and *A. vermicularis* Wagler, 1824 (Vanzolini, 1951; Gomes et al., 2009; Ribeiro et al., 2011; Gomes and Maciel, 2012).

Amphisbaena ibijara was described by Rodrigues et al. (2003), and is known to occur in four localities in Maranhão: Urbano Santos (type locality), Rosário, São Luiz, and Lençóis Maranhenses (Gomes et al., 2009; Miranda et al., 2012). This is a small-sized species (SVL 88-238 mm), with 4 precloacal pores, 239-250 body annuli, 23-25 tail annuli, and 14-16 dorsal and

ventral segments to the midbody annulus (Rodrigues et al., 2003).

Herein, we provided a new record of *A. ibijara* from Timon, Maranhão, Northern Brazil (-5.094167 S; -42.836667 W; datum= WGS 84). The new record extends the species distribution by 218 km southwards

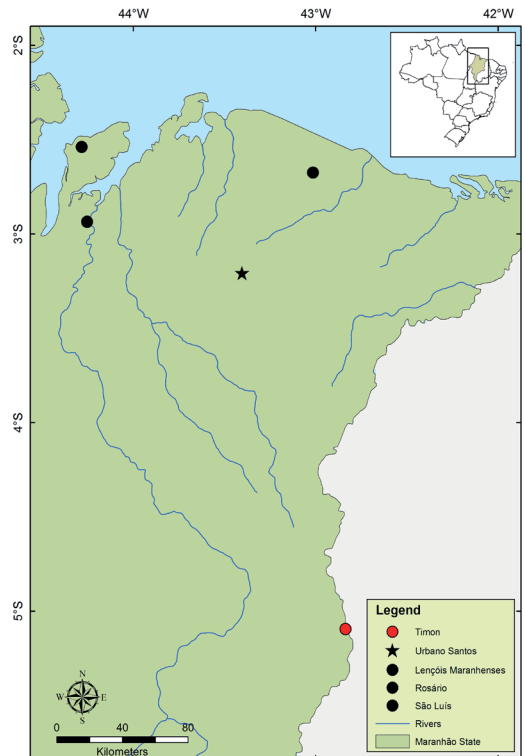


Figure 1: Map of the Brazilian state of Maranhão, indicating the occurrence of *Amphisbaena ibijara* in Urbano Santos (type locality; star), known localities (black circles), and Timon (new record, red circle).

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Figure 2. Specimen of *Amphisbaena ibijara* (URCA-H 2384) collected in Timon, state of Maranhão, Northern Brazil.

from the type locality (Rodrigues *et al.* 2003; Fig. 1). The voucher specimen is housed at the Coleção Herpetológica da Universidade Regional do Cariri, Crato, Ceará (URCA-H 2384).

The specimen (Fig. 2) has the meristic characters provided by the original description (Rodrigues *et al.*, 2003), except for the autotomic site, which in the collected specimen is on the 7th tail annulus, whereas in the original description it was between the 8th and 10th. The discovery of *A. ibijara* in Timon suggests that this species may have a wider distribution than previously thought.

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