

## NOVEDAD ZOOGEOGRÁFICA

**TAENIOPHALLUS POECILOPOGON**  
(COPE, 1863) (SERPENTES:  
DIPSADIDAE): FILLING A GAP ON  
ITS KNOWN DISTRIBUTION IN  
ARGENTINA

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**Locality.**— Argentina, Provincia de Entre Ríos, Departamento La Paz, Ruta Provincial # 6, 8.5 km east from Colonia Máximo Castro (30°53'45" S; 59°34'43" W) (Fig. 1). An adult female found under fallen tree bark next to the route. Date: 23/08/2009. Col: Cajade R. and C. Falcione. Deposited in the Herpetological Collection of Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales «Bernardino Rivadavia» (MACN 40270).

**Comments.**— The genus *Taeniophallus* Cope comprises a group of small terrestrial dipsadids, ranging from Guyana and Colombia to Argentina (Myers and

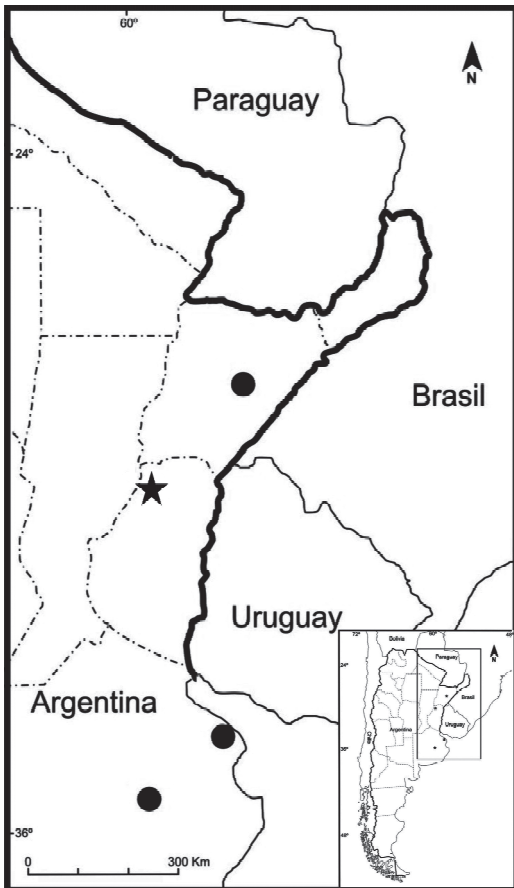
Cadle, 1994). *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* occurs in southern Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay (Koslowsky, 1898; Devincenzi, 1925; Peters and Orejas Miranda, 1970; Myers, 1974; Abalos and Mischis, 1975; Di Bernardo and Lema, 1987; Di Bernardo, 1992; Cei, 1993; Gonzáles and Hamilton, 1998; Achaval-Elena, 2001; Giraudo, 2001; Giraudo and Scrocchi, 2002; Achaval and Olmos, 2003; Carreira *et al.*, 2005). *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* was rediscovered in Argentina after 143 years in the provinces of Buenos Aires (Nenda and Di-Pietro, 2009) and Corrientes (Etchepare and Zaracho, 2009). Additional reliable record for the country, also supported by voucher specimen deposited in a herpetological collection, comes from Buenos Aires province (Jan and Sorde-lli, 1866). There are three other records of the species for the country that are considered doubtful. Berg (1898) mentioned two specimens of *T. poecilopogon* of uncertain origin. One of these specimens possibly came from Entre Ríos (collected by Adolfo Doering 25 years before the publication of Berg's paper) and apparently was housed in the Herpetological Collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales «Bernardino Rivadavia», MACN. The other specimen came from Corrientes or Misiones provinces, housed in the «Gabinete de Historia Natural de la Universidad». Unfortunately ongoing curatorial efforts on both collections failed to find the specimens and they should be considered lost for the time being (Nenda and Di-Pietro, 2009; and this study). Freiberg (1939) reported *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* for Entre Ríos province, without reference to a voucher specimen, and possibly referring to the material mentioned by Berg (1989).

In the present contribution we report the first specimen of *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* from Entre Ríos province, with voucher specimen and complete

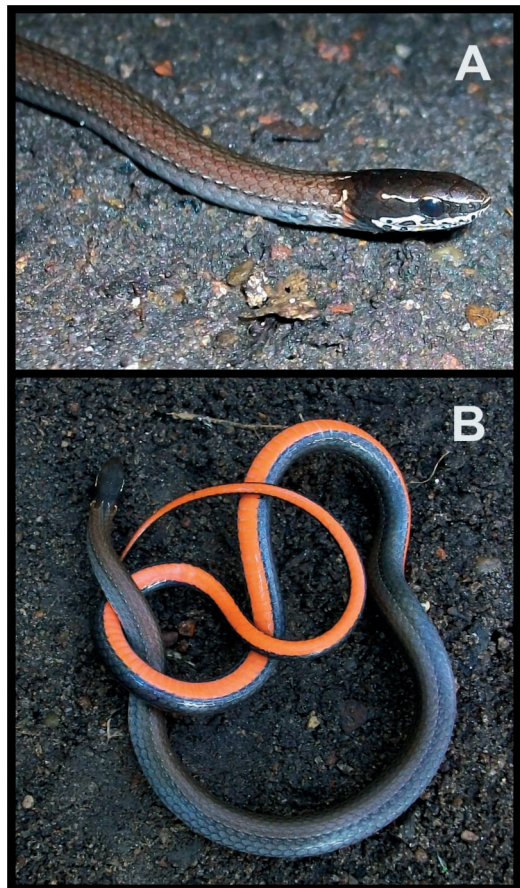
data. Bilateral scale counts are separated by a solidus as right/left. Specimen MACN 40270 (Fig. 2) has 485 mm of body length, 108 mm tail length representing 18% of total length, has 17 smooth dorsal scales without reduction and without apical pits, 168 ventrals, cloacal plate divided, 71+1 subcaudals, 6/7 supralabials 3<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> entering the orbit, 1/1 loreals in contact with second supralabial, nine infralabials in the right side (six of them in contact with chin shields) and eight infralabials in the left side (five in contact with chin shields), one preocular and two postoculars, and 1+2 temporal scales.

The collected specimen was kept in

captivity for 38 days and during this period it fed on frogs, such as *Pseudopaludicola falcipes* and *Scinax nasicus*, and lizards, such as *Cercosaura schreibersi*. Di Bernardo and Lema (1987) reported that one specimen of *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* also fed on *Cercosaura schreibersi*, but it didn't show interest to eat offered frogs such as *Scinax fuscovaria*, *Physalaemus lisei*, and *Elachistocleis bicolor*. Etchepare and Zaracho (2009) also found skin and limbs that belonged to *Dendropsophus* sp. in the stomach of a road kill specimen from Corrientes province. The locality where specimen MACN 40270 was collected is a rural zone that belongs to the Ñandubay dis-



**Figure 1.** Distribution of *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* in Argentina. Black circle: previous known localities. Star: new record from Colonia Máximo Castro, Departamento La Paz, Entre Ríos province, Argentina (MACN 40270).



**Figure 2.** *Taeniophallus poecilopogon* (MACN 40270) in life from Entre Ríos province, Argentina. A: lateral view, B: dorsal and ventral view.

trict in the Espinal phytogeographic province (Cabrera, 1976). This district is characterized by a semixerix forest, with *Prosopis affinis* (Ñandubay) and *Prosopis nigra* as predominating species, and also by palm trees such as *Butia yatay* and *Thitrix campestris*. The ambient where the collected specimen was found, correspond to a patch of this semixerix forest modified by livestock activity.

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