

MICRURUS HEMPRICHII HEMPRICHII RECORDED FOR BRAZIL *

(Serpentes Elapidae)

A. R. HOGE and S. A. ROMANO

(Seção de Herpetologia, Instituto Butantan).

ABSTRACT: *Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii* (Jan) is recorded for Brazil. The study of available specimens shows that *Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii* occurs in the lowlands of medium and lower Amazon, Guianas, and Orenoco drainage; *Micrurus hemprichii ortonii* Schmidt, occurring on the higher places of the Upper Amazon drainage.

UNITERMS:

Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii

(Serpentes Elapidae);

States of Pará and Amazonas (Brazil);

Micrurus hemprichii ortonii. Tefé, Amazonas (Brazil).

Till now the only record of *Micrurus hemprichii* for Brazil was based on a specimen mentioned by Schmidt (1953:165-166), from "Belém", without number in the Munich collection. This specimen was identified by Schmidt as *Micrurus hemprichii ortonii*, but the locality "Belém" so far away from the range of this subspecies suggested to him that the specimen was either transported by man or by rafting from the upper Amazon.

Three specimens now available permit us to give some additional information about the distribution of *Micrurus hemprichii*.

Micrurus hemprichii Jan.

1858 *Elaps hemprichii* Jan, Rev. Mag. Zool., 10:523.

1929 *Micrurus hemprichii*; Amaral, Mem. Inst. Butantan, 4:230.

Distribution: Northern south America east of the Andes.

Content: Two subspecies.

* Supported by a Grant of Conselho Nacional de Pesquisas and National Library of Medicine.
Address:
C. P. 65, São Paulo, Brazil.

Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii

1953 *Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii*; Schmidt, Fieldiana Zool., 34:166.

1970 *Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii*; Roze in Peters et Orejas U.S.N.M. 297:210.

Type locality: Colombia.

Range: Eastern Colombia, southern Venezuela, the Guianas, and Brazil from the State of Pará to Amazonas (Manaus).

Material: IBH, 20.678, from Km 86 on the Belém-Brasília road, State of Pará, Brazil, Gol. E. Dente, 7-1960. INPA, 1.160, "Reserva Duke" near Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, Col. A. C. Maranhão Nina.

Description: IBH, 20.678, a ♀; dorsals 15-15-15; ventrals 166; anal undivided; 30/30 subcaudals; 7-7 upper labials. Head 9 mm; body 205 mm; tail 22 mm. Seven and 1/3 triads on body and 1 on tail. INPA, 1.160, a ♂; dorsals 15-15-15; ventrals 183; anal undivided; 28/28 subcaudals; 7-7 upper labials; 7-7 lower labials. Head 18 mm; body 670 mm; tail 60 mm; 8 triads on body and 1 on tail. The scales of nuchal collar bordered with black.

Micrurus hemprichii ortonii

1953 *Micrurus hemprichii ortonii* Schmidt, Fieldiana Zool. 34:166.

1970 *Micrurus hemprichii ortonii*, Roze in Peters et Orejas U.S.N.M. bul., 297:210.

Type locality: Pebas, Peru.

Range: Amazonian slopes of southern Colombia, Ecuador; Peru, Bolivia and Brazil (Tefé, State of Amazonas, Brazil). The specimen from Belém mentioned by Schmidt is obviously not from this locality.

Material: A single specimen from Tefé, Amazonas, Brazil, Col. by A. R. Hoge and J. D. Cavaleiro, 9-23-52, a ♀, dorsals 15-15-15; ventrals 181; 23/23 subcaudals; anal undivided; 7-7 upper labials; 7-7 lower labials. Head 9 mm; body 208 mm; tail 19 mm. Six triads on body and 1 on tail.

Discussion — The wide gap between the areas of distribution of the subspecies mentioned by Schmidt no longer exists. It is interesting to note that all known specimen of *M. hemprichii ortonii* (exception of the Munich specimen already mentioned) are from the highlands, and the *M. hemprichii hemprichii* from the lower parts of the Amazon from the Guianas and Orenoco drainage.

RESUMO: — Ficou registrada a ocorrência de *Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii* (Jan) no Brasil. Com os exemplares estudados, as áreas de distribuição da subspecies, antes extremamente afastadas, ficaram próximas. *Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii* (Jan) ocorre nas terras baixas do médio e baixo Amazonas, Guianas e Bacia do Orenoco.

UNITERMOS:

Micrurus hemprichii hemprichii

(Serpentes Elapidae);

Estados do Pará e Amazonas (Brasil);

Micrurus hemprichii ortonii, Tefé, Amazonas (Brasil).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indebted to the Conselho Nacional de Pesquisas for a Grant awarded to the junior author; to the National Library of Medicine grant LM 00418-01. To Dr. Afonso Celso do Maranhão Nina from the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Amazonas for the loan of specimens; and to Dr. Ramon A. Lancini from the Museo de Ciencias Naturales de Caracas for the loan and gift of specimens.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AMARAL, A. — Estudos sobre ophidios neotrópicos. XVIII — Lista Remissiva dos ophidios da região neotrópica — *Mem. Inst. Butantan*, 4: 230, 1929.
- JAN, G. — Plan d'une iconographie descriptive des ophidiens et description sommaire de nouvelles espèces de serpents. *Rev. Mag. Zool.*, ser. 2, 10: 523, 1958.
- ROSE, J. in PETERS et OREJAS — Catalogue of the Neotropical Squamata — Part I — Snakes — *U. S. Nat. Mus.*, bulletin 297: 210, 1970.
- SCHMIDT, K. P. — Hemprich's coral snake. *Micrurus hemprichii*. *Fieldiana — zoology* — 34, n.º 13: 165-166, 1953.

Recebido para publicação em 14 de setembro de 1971.

