

LACHESIS MUTA RHOMBEATA  
[SERPENTES: VIPERIDAE, CROTALINAE]

A.R. ROGE\* AND S. ALMA R.W.D.L. ROMANO\*  
Department of Herpetology, Instituto Butantan

ABSTRACT: The species *Trionocephalus (Lachoesis) brasiliensis* Liais, 1872 and *Lachesis muta noctivaga* Hoge, 1966 are put in the synonymy of *Lachesis muta rhombeata* (Wied, 1825).

UNITERMS: Serpentes, *Viperidae*, *Crotalinae*, *Lachesis rhombeata* Wied, 1825, *Trionocephalus (Lachoesis) brasiliensis* Liais, 1872, *Lachesis muta noctivaga* Hoge, 1966 and *Lachesis muta rhombeata* (Wied, 1825)(\*)

Wied<sup>3</sup> (1825: 449) although using the name of *Lachesis rhombeata* for the specimens he collected in Brazil did not mean to describe a new species since he gave a complete synonymy including *Crotalus mutus* Linnaeus, *Bothrops surucucu* Wagler and others, all of them strict synonyms of *Lachesis muta muta* (Linnaeus, 1766).

That he really intended to give a new name can be deduced from the synonymy and from several statements about the identity of his *rhombeatus* with *B. surucucu* Wagler (Wied l.c.: 464) etc.

When I described *Lachesis muta noctivaga* in 1966<sup>1</sup> I overlooked Wied's description. Since Wied although using a new name for *L. muta* Linnaeus based his description on specimens identical with my *Lachesis muta noctivaga* I could have used the name *rhombeatus* instead of describing a new subspecies.

Later Liais<sup>2</sup> (1872: 306) describes based on information of a friend Viscount de Prados, and on a dried skin, *Trionocephalus (Lachoesis) brasiliensis*. His description is: size 4 to 4,50m; habitat and behaviour: "on ne le rencontre dans les cultures, mais exclusivement dans les forets vierges, et il disparaît totalement dans les regions ou celles-ci sont detruites, "C'est la seule espèce de serpent qui au Brésil attaque l'homme". He left no doubt about the species that he described, even gives the local name, although spelling it "sorocotinga". Instead of "surucutinga".

\* Research supported by the N.L.M. (Grant LM 00418-01) and

\* Bolsista do Conselho Nacional do Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq).

(\*) Principal uniterm.

Endereço para correspondência: CEP 05504 - Caixa Postal, 65 - São Paulo - Brasil.



Who really first describes the subspecies of the Atlantic slopes and Rio Doce was Liais<sup>2</sup>. But since Wied's name is the oldest, it should be used.

#### *Lachesis muta rhombeata* Wied

1825 *Lachesis rhombeata* Wied, Abb zur Naturgeschichte von Brasilien.

1825 *Lachesis rhombeata* Wied, Beitr. Nat. Braz. 1: 449.

1872 *Trigonocephalus (Lachoesis) brasiliensis* Liais.

Climats, Géol., Faune et Géogr. Botan. du Brésil: 306.

Type locality not given probably Rio Doce, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

1966 *Lachesis muta noctivaga* Hoge, Mem. Inst. Butantan, 32: 162 pl. 20 (1965).

Type locality: Brasil. Since Wied and Liais did not give exact localities, I restrict here the type locality to Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brasil.

RESUMO: As espécies *Trigonocephalus (Lachoesis) brasiliensis* Liais, 1872 e *Lachesis muta noctivaga* Hoge, 1966 são postas na sinonímia de *Lachesis muta rhombeata* Wied, 1825.

UNITERMOS: *Serpentes, Viperidae, Crotalinae, Lachesis rhombeata* Wied, 1825, *Trigonocephalus (Lachoesis) brasiliensis* Liais, 1872; *Lachesis muta noctivaga* Hoge, 1966 e *Lachesis muta rhombeatus* Wied, 1825(\*).

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. HOGUE, A.R. Preliminary account on neotropical *Crotalinae* "Serpentes Viperidae". *Mem. Inst. Butantan*, 32: 109-184, 1965 (distrb. in 1966).
2. LIAIS, E. Climats, Géologie, Faune et Géographie Botanique Paris, Garnier Frères, 1872. 636p12 part. carte.
3. WIED, Abb. zur Naturgeschichte von Brasilien. Weimar, 1822-1831, in fol., fig. grav. Verlage des Gr. H.S. priv. Landes-Ind Compt.
4. WIED Beitr. Nat. Ges Braz. 1.614p + taf. 1825 Weimar 614 p + taf.