New records of *Typhlops brongersmianus* (Serpentes, Typhlopidae) in southeastern Brazil

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*Typhlops brongersmianus* Vanzolini, 1976 (Squamata, Serpentes, Typhlopidae) is a widespread species in South America, occurring in several habitats (Dixon and Hendricks, 1979; Rodrigues and Juncá, 2002). In Brazil, its distribution is known for scattered but widespread localities, and in the southeast, *T. brongersmianus* was registered in two localities in São Paulo (Barretos and Emas) and one in Minas Gerais (Frutal), further on being listed for the state of Rio de Janeiro in Restinga de Jurubatiba (Rocha and Van Sluys, 2005).

The snake was described in 1972 as *Typhlops brongersmai* based on the holotype from “Barra de Itaipe, Ilheus, Bahia [Brasil]” (Vanzolini, 1972). Four years later, in 1976, the name *T. brongersmai* was replaced by *T. brongersmianus* (Vanzolini, 1976) since the former name was preoccupied by *Typhlops florensis brongersmai* Mertens, 1929.

Here we present new records of *Typhlops brongersmianus* for southeastern Brazil, which expands the geographic distribution previously known for the species in that region, and present a map with these geographic records.

New records were obtained based on field samplings and analysis of scientific collections. The samplings took place in Núcleo Experimental de Iguaba Grande (NEIG), Iguaba Grande Municipality, Rio de Janeiro (22°51’S, 42°10’W), from July 2008 to August 2009, using the methods of direct search and pitfall traps. The area represents a restinga remanescent in Araruama lagoon system, with predominant steppe savannah vegetation (Silveira Primo and Bizerril, 2000).

We analyzed the Coleção de Répteis do Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ), obtaining records of *Typhlops brongersmianus* from southeastern Brazil.

The taxonomic identification was made based on the diagnosis of Dixon and Hendricks (1979). We also present a map with new geographic records. Geographic coordinates were obtained with Google Earth program.

During the herpetological fauna survey in NEIG, municipality of Iguaba Grande, Rio de Janeiro (22°51’S, 42°10’W) three specimens of *Typhlops brongersmianus* were collected. In November 2008 and March 2009, two specimens were captured in a bushy restinga area with sandy ground, 20 meters away from Araruama’s lagoon margin. In 2009, the third specimen (figure 1) was captured in an impacted area with grassy covering, approximately 100 meters away from the margin. All three specimens were captured in pitfall traps, and were preserved and deposited in the MNRJ collection (MNRJ 17703, MNRJ 17482, MNRJ 18507).

Twelve additional specimens of *Typhlops brongersmianus* were found in the MNRJ collection, from the following localities: state of Rio de Janeiro: MNRJ 17932 – municipality of Macaé (22°22’S, 41°47’W); MNRJ 18983 – municipality of Niterói (22°52’S, 43°06’W); MNRJ 17434, 17435 – municipality of São João da Barra, Porto do Açú (21°38’S, 41°03’W); MNRJ 15647 – Restinga de...
Jurubatiba (22°12′S, 41°29′W; without municipality in register book); state of Espírito Santo: MNRJ 4855, 4907 – municipality of Aracruz (19°49′S, 40°16′W); MNRJ 12917 – municipality of Sooretoma, Jueraana (19°11′S, 40°05′W); MNRJ 12918, 12919, 13222 – municipality of Linhares (19°23′S, 40°04′W); state of Minas Gerais: MNRJ 14130 – municipality of Alvorada de Minas, Itapanhoacanga (18°43′S, 43°22′W) (figure 2). The distribution of *Typhlops brongersmianus* in southeastern Brazil including these new records is shown in figure 2. These new localities fill in the distribution gap of *Typhlops brongersmianus* between the previously known localities in southeastern and northern Brazil. They represent the first species records for the state of Espírito Santo and the second record for the states of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro.

All new recorded localities belong to the Atlantic Forest domain. In Minas Gerais, *Typhlops brongersmianus* was collected in semideciduous stationary forest area, on Rio de Janeiro in restinga formations, and on Espírito Santo in tropical rain forest and restinga.

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**References**


