

A new geographic distribution record of the rare lizard *Colobodactylus dalcyanus* Vanzolini and Ramos, 1977 (Squamata, Gymnophthalmidae, Heterodactylini)

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The conservation of lizards in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest became a challenge in recent times. This challenge is partly due to the geographic proximity of the Atlantic Forest to the most populated area in Brazil, resulting in estimates of less than 6 % undisturbed habitat remaining (UFMA, 2005). The tribe Heterodactylini was defined by Pelegrino et al. (2001) based on molecular evidence to include the genera *Colobodactylus*, *Colobosaura*,

Heterodactylus, *Iphisa*, and probably the genus *Stenolepis* on the basis of morphology (Pelegrino et al. 2001). The monophyly of the Heterodactylini and its sister relationship with Gymnophthalmini was corroborated by Rodrigues et al. (2007), that also indicated that the Heterodactylini consists of two strongly supported clades (*Colobodactylus-Heterodactylus* assemblage and the remaining Heterodactylini). The assemblage *Colobodactylus-Heterodactylus* differs from the remaining Heterodactylini by several characters (Rodrigues et al. 2007) and its distribution appears to be restricted to mountainous terrain in the southeastern part of the Atlantic Forest Domain (Vanzolini and Ramos, 1977; Rodrigues et al. 2007).

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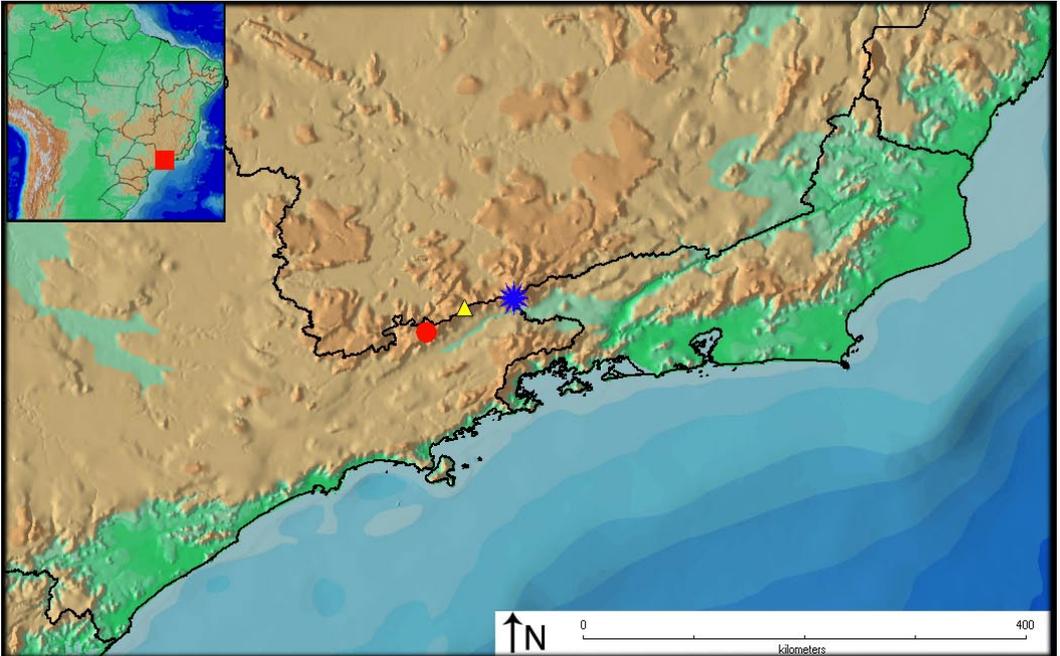


Figure 1. Distribution map of *Colobodactylus dalcyanus*. Blue star: Type locality (Itatiaia National Park, RJ); red circle: Campos do Jordão, SP (Manzani and Sazima, 1997); and yellow triangle: New record in Marins Peak, Municipality of Piquete, São Paulo, Brazil.



Figure 2. Female *Colobodactylus dalcyanus* (MZUSP 100320), SVL about 42mm. Scale bar = 1 cm.

The genus *Colobodactylus* comprises two species, *C. taunayi* and *C. dalcyanus*, both of which occur only in forested areas of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest (Vanzolini and Ramos, 1997; Rodrigues *et al.*, 2007). *Colobodactylus taunayi* is more common and its distribution ranges from São Paulo to Santa Catarina state (Vanzolini and Ramos, 1977; Rodrigues *et al.* 2007; Forlani *et al.* 2010). *Colobodactylus dalcyanus* is a rare species known to occur in two isolated localities (Figure 1) of the *Serra da Mantiqueira*: Brejo da Lapa, Itatiaia National Park, on the border between the states of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais (Vanzolini and Ramos, 1977) and Campos do Jordão in the state of São Paulo (Manzani and Sazima, 1997). Here we provide a new record of *Colobodactylus dalcyanus* in the *Serra da Mantiqueira* based on a specimen collected as stomach content of the dipsadid snake *Oxyrhopus clathratus*. *Colobodactylus dalcyanus* has been classified as “Near Threatened” by the São Paulo State Red List (Marques *et al.* 2009) and as “Data Deficient” in the IUCN Red List (Doan, 2009). Further, its biology is almost completely unknown, with only one record of parental care documented (P. Bernardo, unpublished data).

In the morning of January 21, 2010 a young male of *Oxyrhopus clathratus* (360mm SVL; 79mm TL) was collected in a pitfall trap installed in a secondary forest area at the base of the Peak of Marins (-30.495° S/ -45.148611°W, WGS84 Datum, 1580m elev.), Municipality of Piquete, in São Paulo state, Brazil (Figure 1). During dissection and tissue collection, researchers discovered a female *C. dalcyanus* (SVL about 42mm) in its stomach (Figure 2).

Although the specimen was partially digested (Figure

2), its identification was based on a combination of the following external characters (see Vanzolini and Ramos; 1977) (the conditions in *C. taunayi* is between parentheses): preanal scale absent (present); lower caudals scales smooth (keeled); scales of dorsal surface of tibia with low keels and dull pointed (sharply keeled and pointed); larger granules on the posterior surface of the thigh (smaller). The absence of femoral pores and scale counts correspond to the morphology for *C. dalcyanus* females (the counts by Vanzolini and Ramos, 1977 are between parentheses): 36 dorsal scales (36-40); 28 ventral scales (24-28); 34 midbody (33-35).

This is the second record of *C. dalcyanus* outside the type locality, extending its distribution ca. 50 km SW from the type locality and it is the first record of *C. dalcyanus* outside a Conservation Unit; a fact which reinforces the need for improved conservation policy in the studied region. Our record corroborates the hypothesis by Vanzolini and Ramos (1977) and Rodrigues *et al.* 2007 that *Colobodactylus dalcyanus* is presently isolated in mountains and seems to occur in areas higher than 1400m on the *Serra da Mantiqueira*, Southern Brazil. These high altitude areas are known to harbour high levels of endemism of species and should be priority areas for biodiversity conservation (Duellman, 1999; Haddad and Prado, 2005).

Both the lizard and the snake were deposited in the herpetological collection of the Museum of Zoology, University of São Paulo (MZUSP) with the respective vouchers MZUSP 100320 and MZUSP 18030.

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