

New record of *Kinosternon scorpioides* in Brazil increases its geo distribution - Case report*

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ABSTRACT. Viana D.C., Santos A.C. & Antunes R.L.S. **New record of *Kinosternon scorpioides* in Brazil increases its geo distribution - Case report.** [Novo registro de *Kinosternon scorpioides* no Brasil aumenta sua geodistribuição - Relato de caso.] *Revista Brasileira de Medicina Veterinária*, 37(4):386-388, 2015. Department of Anatomy of Domestic and Wild Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of São Paulo, Av. Dr. Orlando Marques de Paiva 87, São Paulo SP, 05508-270. Brazil. E-mail: diego_carvalho_@hotmail.com/diegoviana@usp.br

Kinosternon scorpioides scorpioides is the only sub-species of *K. scorpioides* with a distribution in South America. The register shows another new site for *K. s. scorpioides*, in the municipality of Imperatriz MA Brazil and the first report in the meso-region of Western Maranhão, River Tocantins. The municipality lies in the south-western region of the state and is known as the gate to the Amazon region, corroborating the importance of *K. s. scorpioides* inventories.

KEY WORDS. Imperatriz, River Tocantins, Amazon, turtle

RESUMO. *Kinosternon scorpioides scorpioides* é a única subespécie de *K. scorpioides* com uma distribuição sul-americana. Este registro representa uma nova localidade para o *K. s. scorpioides* no município de Imperatriz, Estado do Maranhão e o primeiro na mesoregião Oeste Maranhense, Rio Tocantins. O município se localiza no Sudoeste do Estado (coordenadas) e conhecida como portal da Amazônia, reforçando a importância dos inventários de *K. s. scorpioides*.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE. Imperatriz, Rio Tocantins, Amazônia, tartaruga.

HISTORIC

Kinosternon scorpioides (Figure 1) is a turtle species found on the banks of rivers and flooded fields of certain regions of the state of Maranhão, Brazil, mainly in the Baixada Maranhense. They are an integral part of the wild fauna of the Maranhão (Viana et al. 2013). In the present record, *K. scorpioides*,



Figure 1. Specimen of *Kinosternon scorpioides scorpioides* from Imperatriz, Maranhão, Brazil. Photo by P.C. Viana.

with carapace and plastron length at 137 mm and 110mm, respectively, was found walking on the sand bank of the river Tocantins, municipality of Imperatriz MA, Brazil, known as the gate of the

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Amazonian region. The area belongs to the micro-region of Imperatriz, one of the micro-regions of the Brazilian state of Maranhão linked to the meso-region of Western Maranhão. The municipality lies on the southwestern region of the state at 5°31'32"S and 47°28'37"W, distant 626 km from the state capital São Luís (Figure 2).

There is a transition from the savannah to the Amazon forest in the northern section of the River Tocantins basin (especially in the states of Pará and Maranhão). In fact, they are the most representative biomes of South America (Silva and Bates, 2002). Featuring the most extensive section of the river Tocantins basin, the savannah contains spe-

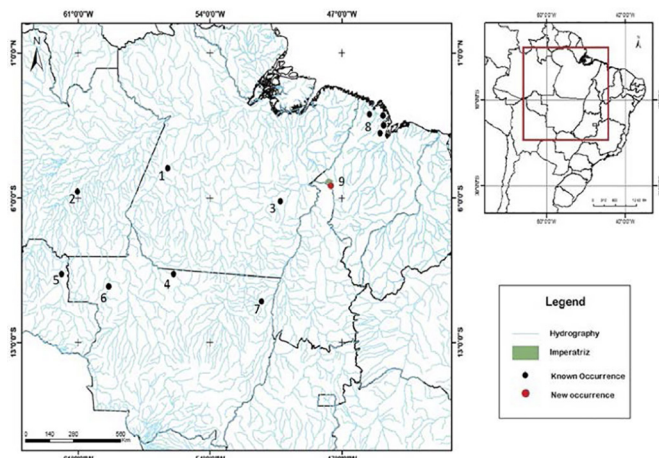


Figure 2. Map shows the known occurrence of *Kinosternon scorpioides scorpioides* in the states of Maranhão, Mato Grosso and Rondônia, and the nearest known localities in states of Amazonas and Pará, Brazil: 1 - São Luís, Tapajós River, Pará (Pritchard and Trebbau 1984), 2 - Manicoré, Madeira River, Amazonas (Iverson 1992, Cabrera and Colantonio 1997, Berry and Iverson 2001), 3 - Serra Sul, Serra dos Carajás, Pará (Carvalho-Jr. et al. 2008), 4 - River Cristalino, Mato Grosso (Vitt et al. 2009), 5 - Cachoeira do Nazaré, River Machado, Rondônia (Cabrera and Colantonio 1997, Berry and Iverson 2001), 6 - Aripuanã, River Aripuanã, Mato Grosso (Costa et al. 2010), 7 - River Tapirapé, Mato Grosso (Pritchard and Trebbau 1984, Iverson 1992, Cabrera and Colantonio 1997), 8 - the towns of Cururupu, Pinheiros, Turilândia and Cedral (Barreto et al. 2010), 9 - River Tocantins, Imperatriz, Maranhão (current study).

cies scantily known but endangered as *Trachemys scripta* and *Podocnemis expansa*. So that the diversity of turtles in the savannah may be conserved, priority conservation areas in the state of Tocantins and Maranhão require further research and protection by law. The river Tocantins basin has undergone significant anthropic impacts. In fact, up to 1998, almost half the area (49%) has been transformed into cash crop land and pasturelands (Costa et al. 2003) whilst most of the river course has alre-

ady been impacted by hydroelectric plants (Brasil 2007).

Vegetation originally belongs to the Open Omphrophile Forest. The Semideciduous Seasonal Forest and transitional formations are predominant south of the municipality of Imperatriz, whilst the savannah comes next within the semi-humid tropical climate (Vogt et al. 2001, IBGE 2011). Following classification by Köppen & Geiger (1928), the climate is Aw, tropically hot and wet, with dry winters. Mean monthly temperature is less than 26°C and lowest temperatures do not exceed 18°C in the winter. The new record is relevance for inventories on the geo-distribution of *Kinosternon scorpioides* in the pre-Amazon region and to development of strategies for conservation of the species.

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