

Report of reproduction in *Ameiva cf. jacuba* (Squamata: Teiidae) in Brazilian Cerrado

Bruno Tayar Marinho do Nascimento¹, Guilherme Marson Moya², Fábio Maffei³

¹ Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Estadual Paulista – UNESP, 17033-360, Bauru, São Paulo, Brasil.

² Instituto Pró Terra, Programa de Conservação da Biodiversidade, 17209-070, Jaú, São Paulo, Brasil.

³ Programa de Pós Graduação - Zoologia, Instituto de Biosciencias, Universidade Estadual Paulista - UNESP, 18618-000, Botucatu, São Paulo, Brasil.

The family Teiidae is restricted to the New World and is represented by 10 genera in Brazil: *Ameiva*, *Ameivula*, *Cnemidophorus*, *Contomastix*, *Crocodilurus*, *Dracaena*, *Kentropyx*, *Salvator*, *Teius*, and *Tupinambis* (Bérnils and Costa, 2012; Harvey *et al.*, 2012). The reproductive ecology of members of this family has been reported in several studies (e. g.: Vitt and Price, 1982; Ávila-Pires, 1995; Werneck *et al.*, 2009; Menezes *et al.*, 2011). Seasonality, clutch frequency, clutch size, egg size, and body size are important variables related to the life history of such oviparous lizards (Vitt and Price, 1982; Rodriguez-Ramirez and Lewis, 1991). *Ameiva jacuba* was described from specimens collected in the Emas National Park, Goiás State, Brazil. The species (Snout-vent length up to 106 mm) is typical from Cerrado, occurring in the states of Goiás and Mato Grosso, where it inhabits open areas such as “campo limpo” (Giugliano *et al.*, 2013). On 20 September 2012, we collected a female of *Ameiva cf. jacuba* in the Santa Bárbara Ecological Station (22° 47' 10.95" S; 49° 14' 41.93" W, 620 m a.s.l.), municipality of Águas de Santa Bárbara, state of São Paulo, southeastern Brazil (Fig. 1). This protected area is in the extreme south of the Cerrado biome limits. The specimen

was captured in a pitfall trap, kept alive for seven days, and later euthanized. It measures were: 102 mm of snout-vent length (SVL), 280 mm of total length, and weighed 29 g (with eggs). Three elliptical shelled eggs weighing 2.5 g each (22.75 mm x 13.6 mm; 23.75 mm x 13.15 mm, 24 mm x 13.6 mm) were removed. The weight without eggs was 21.5 g. The relative clutch mass (ratio of clutch mass to body mass after Vitt and Pianka, 2003) represented 25.8 % of lizard total weight.

Similar clutch sizes have been reported for other teiids. Ávila-Pires (1995), in a review of *Ameiva ameiva*, reported a clutch size of 2 to 6 eggs. In *Ameiva exsul*, Rodriguez-Ramirez and Lewis (1991) found females with 1 to 3 eggs. In *Ameivula ocellifera*, Vitt (1983) reported 1 to 5 eggs per clutch. Studies on other teiids suggest a ratio between total mass and egg mass. Females of *Kentropyx paulensis* have a small body size and their eggs are more numerous and small, but the relative clutch mass ranges between 25% and 28% (Dos Anjos *et al.*, 2002). According to Vitt (1983), the number of eggs in a clutch of certain species of lizards seems dependent on female body size. In *Salvator*, the largest genus of the family (up to 400 mm of SVL), the number of



Figure 1. A) Female of *Ameiva cf. jacuba* and (B) their three elliptical eggs.

eggs can reach 20 to 35 (Fitzgerald, 1994). However, this relationship is not necessarily a rule. In some species, the number of eggs is fixed. For example, in *Ameiva wetmorei*, *Ameivula mumbuca* and *Ameivula jalapensis* the number of eggs is always one (Rodríguez-Ramírez and Lewis, 1991; Colli *et al.*, 2003; 2009). Considering all lizards, most species has 1-4 eggs and egg size varies according to the quantity produced, where more eggs = smaller eggs, fewer eggs = larger eggs (Pianka and Vitt, 2003).

This report constitutes a contribution to the knowledge of the reproductive ecology of teiids lizards and the herpetofauna of the southern portion of the Cerrado biome in Brazil.

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