

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

FIRST RECORD OF *AMBLYOMMA ROTUNDATUM* KOCH, 1844 (ACARI: IXODIDAE)
PARASITIZING *CROTALUS DURISSUS CASCABELLA* (WAGLER, 1824) (SQUAMATA:
VIPERIDAE) IN THE STATE OF PERNAMBUCO, BRAZIL

F. Dantas-Torres^{1*}, E.F. Oliveira-Filho², B.O.F. Souza³, F.B. Sá³

¹Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Centro de Pesquisas "Aggeu Magalhães", Departamento de Imunologia, CP 7472, CEP 50670-420, Recife, PE, Brasil. E-mail: fdt@cpqam.fiocruz.br

ABSTRACT

The occurrence of *Amblyomma rotundatum* on *Crotalus durissus cascavella* (neotropical rattlesnake) is reported for the first time not only in the State of Pernambuco but also in Brazil.

KEY WORDS: *Amblyomma rotundatum*, Ixodidae, *Crotalus durissus cascavella*, Viperidae.

RESUMO

AMBLYOMMA ROTUNDATUM KOCH, 1844 (ACARI: IXODIDAE) PARASITANDO *CROTALUS DURISSUS CASCABELLA* (WAGLER, 1824) (SQUAMATA: VIPERIDAE) NO ESTADO DE PERNAMBUCO, BRASIL. A ocorrência de *Amblyomma rotundatum* parasitando *Crotalus durissus cascavella* (cascavel sul-americana) é registrada pela primeira vez não apenas para o Estado de Pernambuco, mas também para o Brasil.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Amblyomma rotundatum*, Ixodidae, *Crotalus durissus cascavella*, Viperidae.

In this scientific communication, the occurrence of *Amblyomma rotundatum* Koch, 1844 parasitizing *Crotalus durissus cascavella* (Wagler, 1824) is recorded for the first time in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil. An adult Neotropical rattlesnake was captured in the Municipality of Igarassu, north coast of Pernambuco, and sent to the Refúgio Ecológico Charles Darwin (7°49'S, 34°56'W), a 60 ha fragment of Atlantic Forest located in the same Municipality where the reptile was found. During the routine clinical examination, a tick was found next to the head of the snake, which was manually collected and preserved in alcohol 70° GL. The identification was made in the Laboratory of Immunoparasitology, Aggeu Magalhães Research Center of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. Traditional taxonomic keys were used for species determination (ARAGÃO, 1936; ARAGÃO & FONSECA, 1961).

The examined specimen was identified as a partially engorged female of *A. rotundatum*, the only parthenogenetic neotropical tick species (EVANS *et al.*, 2000), which has already been reported in many Brazilian states, on different amphibian and reptile hosts (ARAGÃO, 1936; ARAGÃO & FONSECA,

1961; FIGUEIREDO *et al.*, 1999; EVANS *et al.*, 2000; ONOFRIO *et al.*, 2002; BRUM & COSTA, 2003). The main morphological characteristic of *A. rotundatum* species is the presence of two short robust setae in coxa I to IV. There is also a distinct marginal groove continuous with well-delineated festoons and a ventral protuberance on the palpal trochanter (article I), similar to a keel.

In Palmas (10°12'S, 48°21'W), Tocantins State, three *A. rotundatum* females were found on *C. d. colillineatus* (Amaral, 1926), representing a new host reported (ONOFRIO *et al.*, 2002). In Pernambuco, CUNHA *et al.* (2003) studied the intensity of *A. rotundatum* parasitism on captive snakes of the Boidae family. However, there are no reported of *A. rotundatum* parasitizing snakes of the Viperidae family in Pernambuco.

Previous reported of *A. rotundatum* parasitizing neotropical rattlesnakes in Brazil were related to the subspecies *C. d. colillineatus* and *C. d. terrificus* (ONOFRIO *et al.*, 2002). Thus, to the author's knowledge, this is the first reported of *A. rotundatum* on *C. d. cascavella* in Pernambuco, and also in Brazil. The specimen has been deposited in the personal collection of one of the authors of the present paper (F.D.T.).

*Bolsista de Mestrado do CPqAM.

²Médico Veterinário autônomo, Recife, PE, Brasil.

³Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco, Recife, PE, Brasil.

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