

# A new report of *Metacleobis fulvipes* (Rower) (Solifugae, Mummuciidae) in central Brazil

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The geographic distribution, systematics and general biology of the South American Solifugae are poorly known (Rocha and Canello, 2002). Knowledge of the order in the Neotropical region is scarce especially in Brazil, which includes distinctive environments such as Caatinga and Cerrado that occupy a large portion of this country (Xavier and Rocha, 2001). In the last five years only 3 studies have been carried out focusing on Solpugida in Brazil: Xavier and Rocha (2001) described *Mummucia mauryi* as the first Solifugae from the Caatinga; Martins et al. (2004) reported the occurrence of *M. coaraciandu* in three cerrado phytophysiognomies; and Rocha and Canello (2002) recently re-described *Metacleobis fulvipes* (Rower, 1934) and reported new records for this species: in the Serra da Mesa (Goiás State) and in the Chapada dos Guimarães (Mato Grosso State), both in the Central Brazil cerrado. According to Rocha and Canello (2002) this species exhibited a diurnal activity, walking and burrowing, and during the night remains inactive under pieces of wood. This study reports a new occurrence of *Metacleobis fulvipes* in the cerrado of Central Brazil, which amplifies the distribution of this species and also reinforces the necessity for more studies of arachnofauna in the cerrado. During the period of August and September/2004, in a region of Brasília called São Sebastião, seven live specimens of *M. fulvipes* were collected using pitfall traps. Ten grids were set in three lines of six pitfalls traps. Each was put in three different cerrado phytophysiognomies: “cerradão”, “cerrado *Sensu strictu*” and “campo sujo”. Only in the grids localized in the “campo sujo” the presence of *M. fulvipes* were observed (GRID 1, 15° 57' 57.7" S and 47° 49' 41.4" W, Altitude 1133 m; GRID 2, 15° 58' 09.8" S, 47° 49' 43.6" W Altitude 1137 m). The

animals were fixed in ethanol 80% and deposited in the Laboratório de Aracnídeos at Brasília University and in the Museum de Zoologia at São Paulo University. The specimens were identified by Dr. Ricardo Pinto-da-Rocha and are characterized by a brown chelicerae and three longitudinal pale brown stripes on the ectal face joined dorsally above the fonal teeth (Rocha and Canello, 2002). The area of São Sebastião, a cerrado area which has been rapidly transformed into residential areas, is a grassland landscape characterized by an open area with sandy soil, *Vellozia flavicans* (Velloziaceae) and termites. The specimens were found only at this time in the area, and no other was found in any locality of Brasília, but some more collections are necessary.

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