FIRST STATE RECORD OF *URACENTRON AZUREUM* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (SQUAMATA: TROPIDURIDAE) FROM THE STATE OF MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL

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Tropiduridae consists of medium-sized lizards (4–15 cm snout-vent length), occurring throughout South America, including the Galapagos Islands (Vitt & Caldwell, 2014). In Brazil there are 42 species belonging to seven genera: *Eurolophosaurus*, *Plica*, *Stenocercus*, *Strobilurus*, *Tropidurus*, *Uracentron*, and *Uranoscodon* (Costa & Bérnils, 2018). Lizards of the genus *Uracentron* (Linnaeus, 1758) are arboreal and diurnal, inhabit primary "terra firme" forest, where they are found on trunks and tree canopy (about 5 meters above the ground), and occasionally at the forest edge (Avila-Pires, 1995). The genus is endemic to Amazonia and currently comprises two species: *Uracentron flaviceps* (Guichenot, 1855) and *Uracentron azureum* (Linnaeus, 1758), the latter with three subspecies: *Uracentron azureum azureum* (Linnaeus, 1758), endemic to eastern Amazonia; *Uracentron azureum werneri* Mertens, 1925, endemic to northwestern Amazonia; and *Uracentron azureum guentheri* Boulenger, 1895, predominantly occurring in southwestern Amazonia, with one isolated record in eastern Amazonia (Boulenger, 1894; Beebe, 1944; Hoogmoed & Lescure, 1975 Duellman, 2005; Pérez, 2015; Ribeiro-Junior, 2015).

Uracentron azureum guentheri is known to occur in Peru and Brazil, from the states of Pará, Amazonas, and Rondônia (Ribeiro-Junior, 2015). The eastern portion of its distribution is delimited by the lower Negro river and the Madeira river basin, with one isolated record in the lower Trombetas river (eastern Amazonia). This subspecies can be distinguished from other subspecies by having three narrow crossbands on the neck followed by one crossband descending through the anti-humeral fold (Peters & Donoso-Barros, 1970).

Here we present the first record of *Uracentron azureum* from the state of Mato Grosso and the southernmost record for *Uracentron*, about 650 km southeast of the closest known record (Figure 1). On 10 September 2015, one individual of *Uracentron azureum guentheri* was captured in a pitfall trap in the municipality of Comodoro, state of Mato Grosso, Brazil (13°42′6″ S 60°25′43″ W, 227 m elevation) – collection permit issued by the Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (IBAMA, license #617/2015, process 02001.000328/2009-98).

The area consists of a fragment of secondary forest in advanced stage of regeneration. The fragment adjoins the riparian vegetation of the Guaporé river, which borders Brazil and Bolivia. It is a transitional area between the Amazonia and Cerrado biomes, predominantly covered by seasonal semideciduous forest. The capture site has a dense understory with many lianas, but with a relatively open canopy and thin leaf litter. The specimen is an adult male of about 80 mm snout-vent length and was not collected (Figure 2).

Uracentron azureum is a poorly known lizard, non-heliothermic, restricted to rainforest habitat and unable to survive in deforested areas (Vitt *et al.*, 2008). The specimen was recorded in the most deforested region of the state of Mato Grosso (Richards & VanWey, 2015; Valdiones *et al.*, 2019). Between 2000 and 2012, nearly 80,000 km² of forest and Cerrado were razed in Mato Grosso, often for pastures and croplands (Hansen *et al.*, 2013).

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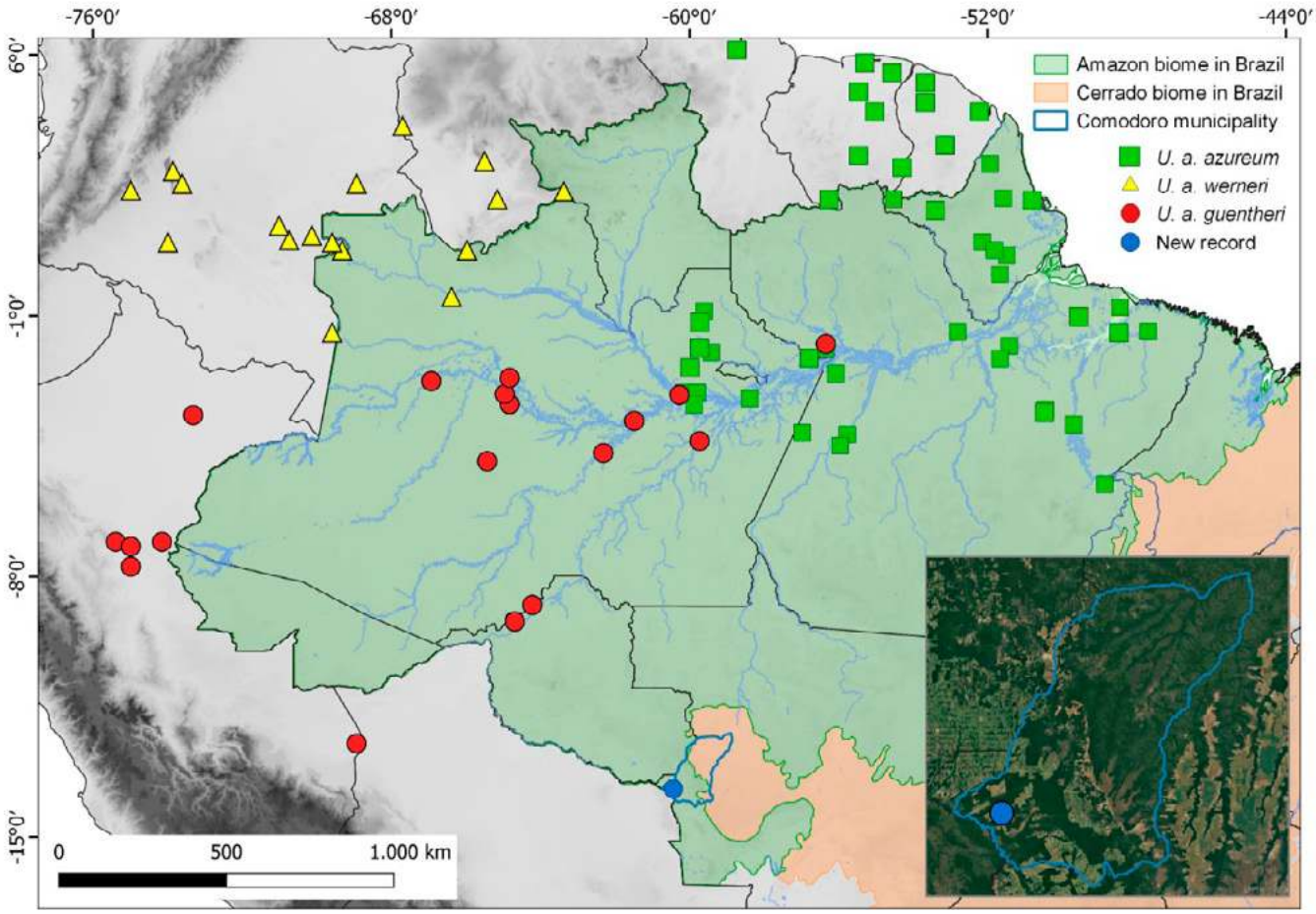


Figura 1. Map showing Brazilian Amazonia and all known records of *Uracentron azureum azureum*, *U. a. guentheri* (including the new one presented here), and *U. a. werneri*. Adapted from Avila-Pires (1995) and Ribeiro-Junior (2015).







Figura 2. Live specimen (not collected) of *Uracentron azureum guentheri* in lateral (A) and dorsal view (B); pitfall traps (C) installed in seasonal semideciduous forest at the municipality of Comodoro, state of Mato Grosso state, central Brazil, a transitional area between Amazonia and Cerrado biomes.