

First record  
of *Sceloporus serrifer* COPE, 1866,  
introduced to Brazil

*Sceloporus serrifer* COPE, 1866, is a viviparous, phrynosomatid lizard (GUILLETTE et al. 1980) occurring in southern Texas, Mexico, northern Guatemala, and Belize (BADILLO-SALDAÑA et al. 2016) where it inhabits various habitat types including wooded, desert and rocky areas (HUNSAKER 1962). The diet consists mainly of invertebrates, as in other species of *Sceloporus* (FERIA ORTIZ et al. 2001; RAMÍREZ-BAUTISTA & GONZÁLEZ-ROMERO 2002; LEYTE-MANRIQUE & RAMÍREZ-BAUTISTA 2010).

In August 2015, an adult male of *S. serrifer* (Fig. 1) was found in an industrial allotment near a transport container that was delivered from Mexico. The area is located at the municipality of Itu, São Paulo, Brazil.

The specimen was brought to Parque Zoológico Municipal Quinzinho de Barros (PZMQB), at the municipality of Sorocaba, São Paulo, by an employee of the company where the lizard was found. The PZMQB opened in 1968 as a government agency and is also known as Sorocaba Zoo. After its arrival at the zoo, the lizard received medical treatment, since the right hind limb was fractured and necrotic. The adult male was kept in the Zoo for one year, died on July 2016 and was thereafter discarded. The main food items offered consisted of arthropods, such as crickets, cockroaches and beetle larvae.

There are many examples of accidental introduction of alien lizards due to human translocation of cargo by maritime and air trade (GILL et al. 2001). In Brazil, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (MOREAU DE JONNÈS, 1818), is the allochthonous species of lizard most widely dispersed and found in an-



Fig 1: The adult male *Sceloporus serrifer* COPE, 1866, found at the municipality of Itu, São Paulo, Brazil. The photograph was taken at Sorocaba Zoo, São Paulo state, Brazil where the lizard was kept until its death.

thropic and natural environments (VANZOLINI 1978; ROCHA et al. 2011). *Hemidactylus mabouia* invaded Brazil probably by means of slave ships in the 1600s. Recently two more alien species of lizard were reported to inhabit natural and anthropic Brazilian areas: A population of *Anolis porcatius* GRAY, 1840, in the Baixada Santista region of coastal São Paulo state (PRATES et al. 2016; SAMELO & BARRELLA 2016) and *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1836), in Belém, Pará state (HOOGMOED & AVILA-PIRES 2015). In addition, an individual of *Gekko gekko* (LINNAEUS, 1758), was collected in the Porto de Itajaí, municipality of Itajaí, Santa Catarina state, Brazil. Similar to *S. serrifer* of this study, the individual of *G. gekko* was found near a transport container that came from China (JÚNIOR et al. 2015).

Introduced species can reduce or even extirpate native species by mating with them, competing, representing predators or introducing parasites and diseases (MACK et al. 2000). Thus, reports of anecdotal introduction events of alien species are important even though the species has not yet become an invader with established populations.

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