



## Nota

# MAJOR EXTENSION OF THE KNOWN RANGE OF THE CAPIXABA NECTAR-FEEDING BAT, *Dryadonycteris capixaba* (CHIROPTERA, PHYLLOSTOMIDAE). IS THIS RARE SPECIES WIDELY DISTRIBUTED IN EASTERN BRAZIL?

Patrício A. da Rocha<sup>1,5</sup>, Anderson Feijó<sup>1</sup>, Daniela Dias<sup>2</sup>, Jefferson Mikalauskas<sup>3</sup>, Juan Ruiz-Esparza<sup>4</sup>, and Stephen F. Ferrari<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidade Federal da Paraíba, Departamento de Sistemática e Ecologia, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Zoologia, 58059-900 João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil [correspondence: Patrício A. da Rocha <parocha2@yahoo.com.br>].

<sup>2</sup> Laboratório de Biologia e Parasitologia de Mamíferos Silvestres Reservatórios, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Pavilhão Lauro Travassos, Avenida Brasil 4365, 21040-900 Manguinhos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

<sup>3</sup> Laboratório de Mastozoologia, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, BR 465 km 7, 23890-000 Seropédica, RJ, Brazil.

<sup>4</sup> Universidade Federal de Sergipe, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente – PRODEMA, 49100-000 São Cristóvão, Sergipe, Brazil.

<sup>5</sup> Universidade Federal de Sergipe, Departamento de Ecologia, 49100-000 São Cristóvão, Sergipe, Brazil.

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**ABSTRACT.** *Dryadonycteris capixaba* Nogueira, Lima, Peracchi and Simmons, 2012 was described from 3 specimens originally identified as *Choeroniscus minor* (Peters, 1868) collected in the Atlantic Forest of southeastern Brazil. The present study reevaluates the geographic distribution of *D. capixaba* based on the re-identification of 5 specimens collected at 4 localities in northeastern Brazil, which were catalogued originally as *C. minor* and *Lichonycteris obscura* Thomas, 1895. The identification of these new specimens of *D. capixaba* extends the known distribution of the species northwards by approximately 1200 km, including also cloud forest enclaves within the xeric Caatinga scrub of northeastern Brazil, which may represent isolated populations.

**RESUMEN.** Importante extensión del rango geográfico conocido para el murciélago nectarívoro de Capixaba, *Dryadonycteris capixaba* (Chiroptera, Phyllostomidae). ¿Está esta especie rara ampliamente distribuida en Brasil oriental? *Dryadonycteris capixaba* Nogueira, Lima, Peracchi and Simmons, 2012 fue descrita a partir de 3 individuos inicialmente identificados como *Choeroniscus minor* (Peters, 1868) colectados en el Bosque Atlántico del sudeste de Brasil. Este estudio pretende reevaluar la distribución geográfica de *D. capixaba* con base en la reidentificación de 5 ejemplares colectados en 4 localidades en el noreste de Brasil, que fueron catalogados originalmente como *C. minor* y *Lichonycteris obscura* Thomas, 1895. La identificación de estos nuevos ejemplares de *D. capixaba* amplía la distribución conocida de la especie hacia el norte aproximadamente 1200 km, incluyendo también enclaves forestales nubosos encontrados en la Caatinga del nordeste de Brasil, que pueden representar poblaciones aisladas.

**Key words:** Atlantic Forest. Choeronycterini. Cloud forest enclaves. Geographic distribution. *Lichonycteris*.

**Palabras clave:** Bosque Atlántico. Choeronycterini. Distribución geográfica. Enclaves forestales nubosos. *Lichonycteris*.

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The genus *Dryadonycteris* Nogueira, Lima, Peracchi and Simmons, 2012, represented by a single species, *D. capixaba*, was described based on 3 specimens from the municipality of Linhares, in the southeastern Brazilian state of Espírito Santo. These specimens were identified originally as *Choeroniscus minor* (Peters, 1868) by Peracchi and Albuquerque (1993) and Peracchi et al. (2011). Nogueira et al. (2012) suggested that *Dryadonycteris* was the only bat genus endemic to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest biome.

As a member of the tribe Choeronycterini (sensu Baker et al., 2003), *D. capixaba* is easily distinguished from lonchophylline and glos-sophagine bats by the absence of lower incisors. In comparison with other Brazilian choeronycterines (*Anoura* Gray, 1838, *Choeroniscus* Thomas, 1928, *Lichonycteris* Thomas, 1895, and *Scleronycteris* Thomas, 1912), *Dryadonycteris* is distinguished by a set of unique distinct external and craniodental traits, including the tricolored banding pattern of the dorsal pelage; plagiopatagium inserted at the base of the toes; uropatagium long, extending past knees; calcar and foot subequal in length; well developed pre-maxilla; inflated anterior maxilla and presence of 2 foramina between premaxillae (Wetterer et al., 2000; Griffiths and Gardner, 2008; Nogueira et al., 2012). Detailed morphological comparisons of the choeronycterine genera are provided by Nogueira et al. (2012).

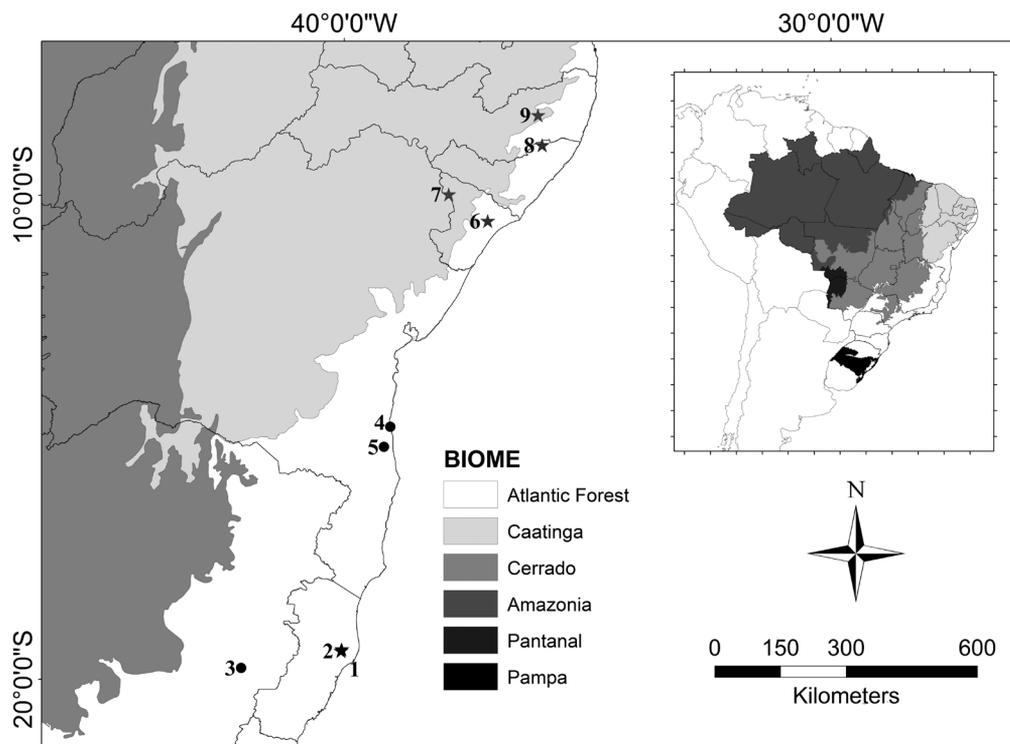
Although the type series was originally identified as *C. minor*, the general appearance of *Dryadonycteris* is closely related to that of *Lichonycteris*; both genera have similarities in body size, the tricolor banding pattern of dorsal pelage, and the insertion of the plagiopatagium at the base of the fingers. In addition, there is a possibility that the *D. capixaba* and *Lichonycteris obscura* Thomas, 1895 are potentially sympatric at the Atlantic Forest of southeastern Brazil (Nogueira et al., 2012). The above mentioned aspects raised the need of a reevaluation of the identification of choeronycterine specimens from other locations in eastern Brazil identified as *C. minor* and *L. obscura*.

In the present study we revised the identification of 5 specimens cataloged as *C. minor* and *L. obscura*, from 4 localities in northeastern

Brazil (Fig. 1), deposited in 3 zoological collections: Coleção Adriano Lúcio Peracchi (ALP), Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Coleção de Mamíferos da Universidade Federal da Paraíba (UFPB) and Coleção de Mamíferos da Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE). Three of these specimens were collected by the authors in Sergipe, including an adult female (ALP 9740), previously identified as *C. minor*, which was captured at Refúgio da Vida Silvestre Mata do Junco (10°32'S, 37°03'W), a 800-ha protected area of Atlantic Forest with a well structured forest surrounded by sugarcane (*Saccharum* sp.) plantations in the municipality of Capela. Two adult males (UFPB 6104, UFPB 6105) were captured at a second site called Serra da Guia (9°58'S, 37°52'W) in the municipality of Poço Redondo in July and August, 2009, respectively. These specimens were reported as *L. obscura* by Leal et al. (2013), based on the preliminary identification in an unpublished dissertation (Rocha, 2010). Both specimens were caught with mist nets set in a cloud forest refuge at the top of the mountain range, at an altitude of approximately 750 m. This small patch of forest has a well structured canopy of up to 20 m in height, which is quite distinct from the dry Caatinga scrub habitats of the surrounding area.

Two additional specimens also identified as *C. minor* were examined. One specimen (UFPE 301) was collected in the cloud forest at Brejo dos Cavalos (8°22'S, 36°01'W) in the municipality of Caruaru, Pernambuco (Souza et al., 2004). Finally, the other unpublished specimen (UFPB 4203) was collected in an area of Atlantic Forest in Ibataguara (8°56'S, 35°53'W), Alagoas.

All the mentioned specimens present the unique combination of characters that distinguish *D. capixaba* from the other choeronycterine genera (Nogueira et al., 2012), such as (1) lower edge of the horseshoe confluent with the upper lip, (2) lateral edges of the horseshoe confluent with the face on the inferior margin, but with superior edge free, (3) small ears, with rounded tips and strongly convex inner margins, (4) dorsal and ventral surfaces of the forearm covered with fur, (5) plagiopatagium inserted at the base of the toes, (6) long uropa-



**Fig. 1.** Records of *Dryadonycteris capixaba* (stars) and *Choeronycteris minor* (circles) from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest (compiled after Aguiar et al., 1995; Sousa et al., 2004; Faria et al., 2006; Nogueira et al., 2012, and the present study): Espírito Santo, (1) Reserva Natural Vale (type locality of *D. capixaba*), (2) Floresta Nacional de Goytacazes, Linhares; Minas Gerais, (3) Caratinga; Bahia, (4) Ilhéus, (5) Uma; Sergipe, (6) Refugio de Vida Silvestre Mata do Junco, Capela, (7) Serra da Guia, Poço Redondo; Alagoas, (8) Ibatiguara; Pernambuco, (9) Caruaru. Dark stars: localities of the type series; blue stars: new records in the Atlantic Forest; green stars: new records in the cloud forest enclaves.

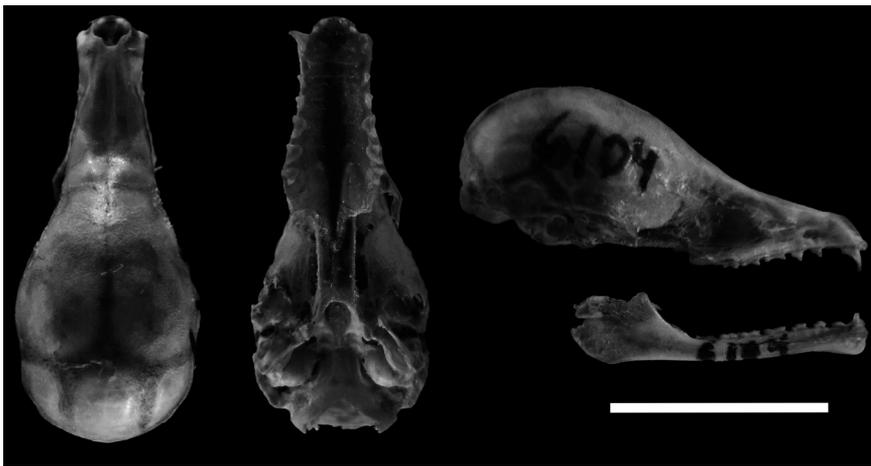
tagium, extending past the knees and the short tail, (7) calcar approximately the same length as the foot, (8) dorsal fur tricolored, with a pale brown base and narrow dark brown tip, separated by an ample, cream-colored middle band (**Fig. 2**), (9) premaxillae well developed, (10) presence of 2 foramina between premaxillae, (11) anterior portion of the maxilla inflated conspicuously (**Fig. 3**), (12) presence of well developed diagonal lines on the orbital portion of the frontal bones, (13) coronoid process as high as the mandibular condyle, (14) U-shaped upper incisor arcade (**Fig. 3**), and (15) first lower premolar with concave lingual surface. The dental formula of the specimens - I 2/0, C 1/1, P 2/3, M 3/3  $\times$  2 = 30 - is also the same as that of *D. capixaba*. The measurements of the specimens analyzed, obtained following the guidelines in Vizotto and Taddei (1973), are

also generally consistent with those recorded for the type series (**Table 1**).

The results of the present study constitute a major advance in the understanding of the zoogeography of *D. capixaba*, given that the northernmost sites are 1200 km north of the type locality of this species in the southeast of the country. Assuming that the known localities do not represent 2 isolated populations in the north and south of the Atlantic Forest, it would seem reasonable to conclude that the species is distributed throughout most of this biome on the tropical eastern coast of Brazil, although it is presumably rare at most sites.

In addition, while Nogueira et al. (2012) suggested that the species (and genus) is endemic to the Atlantic Forest, the herein analyzed specimens from Serra da Guia and Brejo dos Cavalos indicate the occurrence of the species within

**Fig. 2.** Views of dorsal (left) and ventral (right) fur of a male *Dryadonycteris capixaba* (UFPB 6104) from Serra da Guia, Sergipe, northeastern Brazil. Note the distinct tricolored pattern of the dorsal fur banding. Scale bar = 20 mm.



**Fig. 3.** Dorsal, ventral, and lateral views of the cranium and lateral view of the mandible of a male *Dryadonycteris capixaba* (UFPB 6104) from Serra da Guia, Sergipe, northeastern Brazil. Scale bar = 10 mm.

the neighboring Caatinga xeric scrublands of northeastern Brazil, albeit in isolated enclaves of cloud forest, which are considered to be Atlantic Forest refugia (Andrade-Lima, 1982). In the specific case of Serra da Guia, the small size of the cloud forest enclave - approximately 25 hectares - suggests that the local *D. capixaba* almost certainly utilize the Caatinga scrub, even if they may not be permanent residents in this ecosystem. On the other hand, the association with cloud forest suggests that they may be dependent on mesic habitats. The cloud forest enclaves of the Brazilian Northeast are known for their faunal diversity, including many endemic and endangered species (Andrade and Lins, 1964; Theulen, 2004; Pereira Filho and Montingelli, 2011).

Based on this reassessment of the available specimens, *C. minor* would now be restricted

to only 3 sites in the Atlantic Forest (**Fig. 1**), all relatively close to the type locality of *D. capixaba* - Ilhéus and Una in southern Bahia (Faria et al., 2006), and Caratinga in eastern Minas Gerais (Aguar et al., 1995). The specimens from Minas Gerais are similar in size to *D. capixaba* (Nogueira et al., 2012), but smaller than the *C. minor* specimens collected in French Guiana (Simmons and Voss, 1998). Given the findings presented here, it seems likely that these specimens may also represent *D. capixaba*. In the original description of Nogueira et al. (2012), these individuals were not available for analysis. Assuming that these specimens do in fact represent *D. capixaba*, the geographic range of *C. minor* would be restricted to the Amazon basin and adjacent areas of northern and northwestern South America.

Table 1

Selected measurements (weight in grams, all other values in mm) of specimens of *Dryadonycteris capixaba* from 4 localities in northeastern Brazil and the type series from Linhares, Espírito Santo (after Nogueira et al., 2012). The collection acronyms are detailed in the main text.

Measurement	Espírito Santo	Sergipe			Pernambuco	Alagoas
	Range of values for the type series	Serra da Guia, Poço Redondo		RVS Mata do Junco, Capela	Brejo dos Cavalos, Caruaru	Ibateguara
		UFPB 6104 (male)	UFPB 6105 (male)	ALP 9740 (female)	UFPB 4203 (male)	UFPE 301 (male)
Body mass	4.1 - 5	6.0	5.0	6.0	-	-
Total length	49.9 - 56.4	54.0	-	56.5	-	-
Body length	-	46.0	-	49.0	-	-
Tail length	4.4 - 6.4	8.0	-	6.4	-	-
Hind foot length	7.5 - 8.3	8.0	-	7.7	-	-
Ear length	9.0 - 10	12.0	-	12.1	-	-
Forearm length	29.1 - 32.3	30.0	31.0	31.2	-	-
Greatest length of skull	19.5 - 20.2	18.9	19.4	19.9	19.7	18.3
Condylbasal length	18.9 - 19.8	18.6	18.7	19.4	18.8	18.1
Mastoidal breadth	7.8 - 8.2	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.2	-
Breadth of braincase	7.6 - 7.7	7.7	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.4
Postorbital constriction	3.8 - 4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.3	3.8
Breadth across upper canines	3.3 - 3.4	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.2	2.8
Breadth across upper molars	4.0 - 4.1	4.2	3.9	3.9	-	-
Maxillary toothrow length	6.1 - 6.8	6.8	5.9	6.8	6.3	5.8
Length of mandible	13.9 - 14.2	13.4	13.1	14.0	13.1	12.2
Mandibular toothrow length	6.2 - 7.0	-	-	6.9	-	-

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