

Physalaemus nattereri (Cuyaba dwarf frog): Parasitism

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The genus *Amblyomma* Koch, 1844 is currently represented by 30 valid tick species in Brazil, and at least seven are known from the Brazilian Savanna (Szabó et al., 2007), parasitising amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals (Dantas-Torres et al., 2009). Among these tick species, *A. dissimile* Koch, 1844 and *A. rotundatum* Koch, 1844 are the most commonly found in Amphibia and Reptilia groups (Onofrio et al., 2006; Guglielmone & Nava, 2010). *A. rotundatum* is a neotropical tick with a wide distribution that has been reported from Argentina to Mexico (Luz & Faccini, 2013). It is also established in the United States of America where it was accidentally introduced, in South Florida, parasitising *Rhinella marina* (Oliver et al., 1993). In Brazil, this tick species was reported from Amazonas to Rio Grande do Sul (Luz & Faccini, 2013), parasitising species of *Rhinella* anuran group. Parasitism by *A. rotundatum* is common on species of bufonids, and some cases have been reported from other anurans, for example *Discoglossus pictus*, *Pipa pipa*, *Pelophylax esculentus* and *Spea bombrifons* (Guglielmone & Nava, 2010). Awareness of new cases may help to understand parasite-host relationships. Here we report the parasitism of an adult female *Physalaemus nattereri* by a nymph of *A. rotundatum* in Cerrado, the Brazilian Savanna.

On December 20, 2013, we captured 17 individuals of *P. nattereri* in a temporary pond (16°35'54.8"S 48°52'43.7"W) in a pasture area in the municipality of Bonfinópolis, Goiás, central Brazil. Visual assessment of the frogs revealed that one specimen (female, SVL = 47.87 mm, weight = 11.47 g) was parasitised by a nymph *A. rotundatum*, which was found in the upper ventral region on the left thigh (Fig. 1). The female frog was found in amplexus with a co-specific male. The tick was removed from the body of the host using anatomical forceps and was fixed in 70% ethanol. It was identified following a dichotomic key (Martins et al., 2010) at the Instituto de Patologia Tropical e Saúde Pública (IPTSP), Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG). This voucher specimen is deposited in the zoological collection of the Universidade Federal de Goiás, Goiânia, Brazil (ZUFG 8493). Guglielmone & Nava (2010) listed records of parasitism of *A. rotundatum* on 13 anuran hosts: *Anaxyrus terrestris*, *D. pictus*, *P. esculentus*, *Peltophyryne peltoccephala*, *P. pipa*, *Rhinella arenarum*, *R. crucifer*, *R. granulosa*, *R. icterica*, *R. marina*, *R. schneideri*, *Rhinella* sp., *S. bombrifons*. In

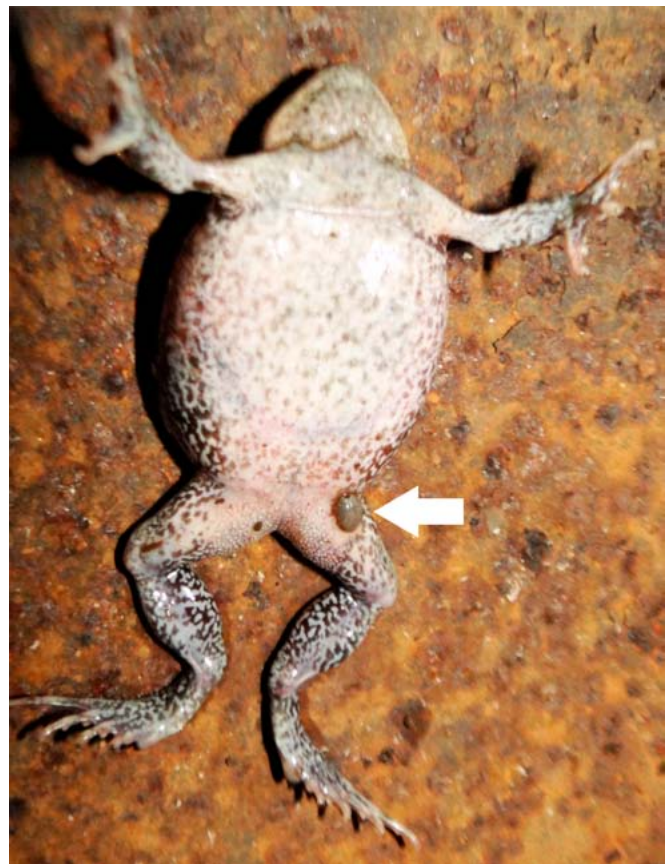


Figure 1. Nymph of *A. rotundatum* tick (white arrow) on adult female *P. nattereri*.

Brazil, the records are restricted to species of bufonids: *R. granulosa*, *R. icterica*, *R. jimi*, *R. marina*, *R. schneideri*, *Rhinella* sp. (see revision Luz & Faccini, 2013). Therefore, our report appears to be the first record of *A. rotundatum* parasitising *P. nattereri*, a leptodactylidae frog. The relationships between ectoparasites and anuran hosts are still unclear (Antonucci et al., 2011; Luz & Faccini, 2013). Although, this report concerns only a single observation it represents a new case, at a Cerrado Savanna, of a tick parasitising anuran species belonging to the *Physalaemus* group. This presents possibilities for study of parasite-host interactions involving anuran fauna in Cerrado.

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