



The Neotropical Birdsnake, *Phrynonax sexcarinatus* (Serpentes: Colubridae), a New Geographic Record in Bolivia

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The Neotropical Birdsnake, *Phrynonax sexcarinatus* (Wagler 1824), is widely distributed in South America (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970; Martins and Oliveira 1999; Jadin et al. 2013; Natera-Mumaw et al. 2015). These colubrids are generally diurnal, but are sometimes active at night, and primarily arboreal, although the species, like its congeners, is sometimes considered to be terrestrial (Martins and Oliveira 1999; Natera-Mumaw et al. 2015; Bernarde et al. 2017). In Bolivia, the species has been recorded only in lowland Amazonian Forest in the Departments of Pando and Santa Cruz (Nogueria et al. 2019). Herein we document for the first time the presence of *P. sexcarinatus* in the Department of Cochabamba and the Yungas ecoregion in Carrasco National Park, Bolivia.

During a monitoring trip by park rangers on 25 October 2022, an adult female *P. sexcarinatus* (Fig. 1) was found active at 0541 h adjacent to a mature secondary montane (Yungas) forest in Abra Punta, Carrasco National Park, Cochabamba, Bolivia (-17.398511, -65.201364; elev. 1,458 m asl; Fig. 2). We collected the snake under permit MMAYANMABCCGDF/DGBAP/MEG N° 0053/2019,



Figure 2. Map showing records of the Neotropical Birdsnake (*Phrynonax sexcarinatus*) in Bolivia: Previously documented localities are indicated by white dots and the new record at Abra Punta, Carrasco National Park (outlined in green), Cochabamba, Bolivia is marked with the red star.



Figure 1. A Neotropical Birdsnake (*Phrynonax sexcarinatus*) (MHNC-R 3228) from Abra Punta, Carrasco National Park, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Photographs by Bladimir Marca.

extracted and preserved muscle tissue in 96% ethanol, and deposited the specimen in the Museo de Historia Natural Alcide d’Orbigny (MHNC-R 3228).

We identified the species as *P. sexcarinatus* using the characters identified by Lopes and Passos (2023), and our identity was confirmed by Luis Felipe Esqueda. According to Nogueria et al. (2019), the known distribution of *P. sexcarinatus* in Bolivia comprises two ecoregions, Amazonian forest

(La Paz and Pando Departments) and Chiquitano dry forest (Santa Cruz Department) (see also Fugler and Cabot 1985 and Middendorf and Reynolds 2000).

The Yungas of central Bolivia provides habitat for the most endemic species of amphibians (de la Riva and Reichle 2014) and also is one of the most vulnerable ecoregions in Bolivia, largely due to agricultural development (Ibisch and Mérida 2003). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first documented record of *P. sexcarinatus* for the Department of Cochabamba, extending the known distribution more than 200 km southwest of the nearest record in La Guardia, Santa Cruz, Bolivia (Lopes and Passos 2023), the first documented record for the Yungas ecoregion in Bolivia (Carrasco National Park), and also the highest record in Bolivia (1,458 m asl).

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