

# The distribution of *Amphisbaena prunicolor* (Cope, 1885) in Paraguay and its diagnosis from *A. darwinii* Duméril & Bibron, 1839

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## Abstract

*Amphisbaena prunicolor* is known from very few Paraguayan reports in the southern department of Itapúa. Often confused with *A. darwinii* (including 'heterozonata' and 'trachura') and *A. albocingulata*, it is identified by the combination of a rounded head, checkerboard pattern on the ventral surface, presence of a postmalar scale row, and caudal annuli in the range 18–24. We reviewed southern Paraguayan specimens of *A. prunicolor* and *A. darwinii* and found that the most recently published specimen of *A. prunicolor* (IIBP-H 4460) in fact refers to *A. darwinii* 'trachura' but that the first report of the species in Paraguay is correctly identified and refers to a specimen with an autotomized tail. We include live images of an additional modern record of *A. prunicolor* from this same area and confirm that a specimen (USNM 253536) from the same locality identified in the literature as *A. darwinii* 'trachura' is in fact also *A. prunicolor*. Finally, we clarify and illustrate the diagnostic characters of *A. prunicolor* with respect to *A. darwinii* in Paraguay to reduce future confusion.