



***Chthonerpeton viviparum* Parker & Wettstein, 1929  
(Amphibia, Gymnophiona, Typhlonectinae) in Paraná state, Brazil  
and the first record of predation of this species by *Hoplias  
malabaricus* (Bloch, 1794) (Actinopterygii, Erythrinidae)**

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**Abstract.** The present paper reports the first occurrence of *Chthonerpeton viviparum* in Paraná State (Brazil) and its predation by *Hoplias malabaricus*.

**Key words:** Fish, amphibian, diet, river, Atlantic rain forest.

**Resumo.** *Chthonerpeton viviparum* Parker & Wettstein, 1929 (Amphibia, Gymnophiona, Typhlonectinae) no estado do Paraná, Brasil e o primeiro registro de predação desta espécie por *Hoplias malabaricus* (Bloch, 1794) (Actinopterygii, Erythrinidae). O presente artigo reporta a primeira ocorrência de *Chthonerpeton viviparum* no Estado do Paraná (Brasil) e a predação desta espécie por *Hoplias malabaricus*.

**Palavras-chave:** Peixe, anfíbio, dieta, rio, floresta Atlântica.

Caecilians are cryptic vertebrates whose biology is poorly known. It is alarming considering that the group occurs mostly in tropical regions where the deforestation advances at fast rates, including the Atlantic Rain Forest that is one of the richest and most threatened ecosystems of the planet (Myers *et al.* 2000). The majority of species of this group has been considered as data deficient (*sensu* IUCN 2006) despite some progress toward conservation strategies (Gower & Wilkinson 2005). The subfamily Typhlonectinae is aquatic and some species of *Chthonerpeton* have been found buried in the mud (Gudynas *et al.* 1988). Fishes are considered major components of tropical rivers food webs, and tropical fishes demonstrated great trophic variation at all levels (Winemiller & Jepsen 1998). On 30 March 2006, during a study on the feeding ecology of *Hoplias malabaricus* (Bloch, 1794) we retrieved a well-preserved *Chthonerpeton viviparum* Parker & Wettstein, 1929

(Amphibia, Gymnophiona, Typhlonectinae) specimen from the stomach of an adult specimen of *H. malabaricus*, captured at Guaraguaçu river basin (25°42'08,4"S; 48°31'58"W), Atlantic Rain Forest, sub-basin of Paranaguá bay, Paranaguá city, Paraná state, southern Brazil. This species of fish is known to be a top predator that feeds mainly on fishes that become the principal prey for *H. malabaricus* when its predator ranges 200 mm standard length (Bistoni *et al.* 1995). The consumed caecilian was deposited in the Zoology Museum of São Paulo's University (MZUSP, A-138293) and measured approximately 500 mm in total length and had a mass of approximately 30 g, whereas the predator measured 365.0 mm TL and had a total mass of 600 g. *Chthonerpeton viviparum* occurs in the vicinity of Joinville in eastern Santa Catarina state (Frost 2007) and our record represents the first occurrence of this species for Paraná state.



**Figure 1.** Specimen of *Chthonerpeton viviparum* found in a stomach content of *Hoplias malabaricus* at Guaraguaçu river basin, Paraná state, Brazil.



**Figure 2.** Specimen of *Hoplias malabaricus* that predated *Chthonerpeton viviparum*.

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