

# First record of the Chaco Earthcreeper *Tarphonomus certhioides* (Furnariidae), in Brazil.

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**ABSTRACT:** During an expedition to the Espinilho State Park, located at Barra do Quaraí, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (30° 12' 11" S 29° 57' 40" W), from 18 to 24 July 2012, we recorded an individual *Tarphonomus certhioides*, which was captured, banded (CEMAVE G 106017), recorded, and photographed. It was found in an area of dense dry and thorny vegetation, with predominance of *Vachellia caven* (Fabaceae). We suggest "joão-chaquenho" as the vernacular name in Portuguese for this species.

**KEY-WORDS:** *Espinilho*, range extension, distribution, Brazilian Official Bird List, *Upucerthia*

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The Chaco Earthcreeper *Tarphonomus certhioides* (d'Orbigny & Lafresnaye, 1938) is found in southeastern Bolivia (southern Dpto. Santa Cruz), western Paraguay and northern and central Argentina (Provs. Mendoza, La Pampa, Santa Fé, Corrientes, and Entre Ríos) (Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990, Ridgely & Tudor 1994). It is generally regarded as a resident and fairly common species in its range (Short 1975, Remsen 2003). Although not included within the austral migrants by Chesser (1994), it might be an austral migrant in Formosa (Di Giacomo 2005).

On 21 July 2012, we found an individual of this species in Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil, near the borders with Argentina and Uruguay, at Parque Estadual do Espinilho, Barra do Quaraí municipality (30°12'11"S; 57°29'40"W). It was photographed, tape recorded, and captured with mist nets and banded (metal band Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação de Aves Silvestres – CEMAVE - G 106017 with a red color band on opposed tarsus [left]). We also collected a blood sample of this individual, which was deposited in the bird collection of Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS - MCP 3395). We found the bird in a habitat characterized by a high density of *espinilho* like trees, dominated by *Vachellia caven* (Fabaceae) mixed with scrubby thickets and thorny, short trees (Figure 1). The habitat was similar to that described for this species in the literature: thickets in arid scrub (Remsen 2003, Chesser & Brumfield 2007). The individual recorded was identified by plumage as an adult of the nominate subspecies (Figure 2), which occurs in nearby Corrientes, and Entre Ríos, Argentina (Remsen

2003). The measurements (mm) of the individual were: tarsus (21.1), culmen (23.75), exposed culmen (23.1), culmen from nostril (16.5), wing chord (68.0), tail (total length; 72.0), and body mass (24.7 g).



**FIGURE 1.** Habitat where the Chaco Earthcreeper *Tarphonomus certhioides* was recorded in Brazil on 21 July 2012. Photo: E. C.



**FIGURE 2.** Adult Chaco Earthcreeper *Tarphonomus certhioides* captured by a mist net. Photo: M. S. at Parque Estadual do Espinilho, Barra do Quaraí, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, on 21 July 2012.

This is the first documented record of *Tarphonomus certhioides* for Brazil, supporting its inclusion in the primary list of the Brazilian Checklist Committee (CBRO 2011). Our preliminary data suggest that the species should be considered an occasional visitor in Brazil, but subsequent fieldwork may alter this view. We suggest for the species the Portuguese name “joão-chaquenho” in allusion to its English and Spanish names added of the vernacular name “joão” used commonly for the representatives of ovenbirds in Brazil. We suggest that the range of *Tarphonomus certhioides* might extend to Uruguay in the *Espinilho* formation along the Uruguay River banks.

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