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First record of the Orange-bellied Antwren (*Terenura sicki*) in the lowland Atlantic Forest of Pernambuco, northeastern Brazil

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RESUMO: Primeiro registro de *Terenura sicki* para as matas de baixada do estado de Pernambuco, nordeste do Brasil. Uma nova localidade de ocorrência de *Terenura sicki* é reportada, sendo a primeira para as matas de baixada no estado de Pernambuco. Um indivíduo foi observado e teve a voz gravada durante atividades de observação de aves em janeiro de 2009 na Usina Trapiche, no município de Sirinhaém, litoral sul do Estado.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Thamnophilidae, Pernambuco, *Terenura sicki*, distribuição, espécie ameaçada.

KEY-WORDS: Thamnophilidae, *Terenura sicki*, Orange-bellied Antwren, Pernambuco, distribution, threatened species.

The Orange-bellied Antwren (*Terenura sicki*) is a threatened species endemic to the Pernambuco endemism centre of the Atlantic Forest of the states of Alagoas and Pernambuco – Northeast Brazil (Zimmer and Isler 2003). This species is classified as Globally Endangered because it has a very small and fragmented range and population caused by the massive destruction of the Atlantic Forest in the region as a result of logging and the conversion to sugar cane plantations and pasture (BirdLife International 2008).

The published records list the species at just a few localities: the now Murici Ecological Station, the type locality (Teixeira and Gonzaga 1983), Novo Lino and Quebrangulo (also known as Pedra Talhada Biological Reserve) (Teixeira 1987), Engenho Coimbra (also known as Usina Serra Grande) (Roda *et al.* 2003) all in Alagoas. In the state of Pernambuco, it is reported from Engenho Água Azul (Willis and Weinberg 1990, Teixeira *et al.* 1998), Mata do Estado (Roda *et al.* 2003) and Jaqueira (also known as Frei Caneca Private Reserve and Serra do Urubu) (Barnett *et al.* 2003, 2005), see Figure 1. All reported sites are upland humid forests in altitudes from 300 m at Novo Lino to 700 m at Jaqueira (Roda 2008).

Here I present a new locality for the species, the first one in lowland forest. On 15th January 2009, while guiding a group of birdwatchers, searching for the enigmatic Pernambuco Pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium mooreorum*) where it was last recorded in 2001 at Usina Trapiche (8°37'39"S, 35°10'17"W, elevation 76 m), municipality of Sirinhaém,

on the southern coast of the State of Pernambuco (Figure 1), one Orange-bellied Antwren was heard vocalizing in the forest canopy. Immediately I sound-lured it using a pre-recorded vocalization and a single male approached together with a pair of Rufous-winged Antwren (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*). Its vocalization was recorded and will be deposited at the "Arquivo Sonoro Elias Coelho", Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro.

This unexpected record in a well-surveyed remnant of forest strengthens the need for further surveys in the region and suggest that the species is not a strict member of a putative higher elevation component of the Pernambuco Centre avifauna, as previously suggested.

The Orange-bellied Antwren is considered common to fairly common in some of the areas where it occurs, especially in Murici Ecological Station (Zimmer and Isler 2003, BirdLife International 2008). My own impression on its abundance during visits to some of these areas (Pedra Talhada, Murici, Mata do Estado and Jaqueira) in the last four years is pessimistic for Murici, where in at least ten bird-watching visits from November 2006 to January 2009, only one pair was recorded per visit, always in the same area (and perhaps the same birds). Such an apparent decrease has also been noted by other ornithologists and bird-watching guides visiting the area in recent years (*e.g.* Bret Whitney and Juan Mazar Barnett; pers. comm. 2008), a decrease also being noted for other endemics such as Alagoas Foliage-gleaner (*Philydor novaesi*), Alagoas Antwren (*Myrmotherula snowi*) and Alagoas Tyrannulet

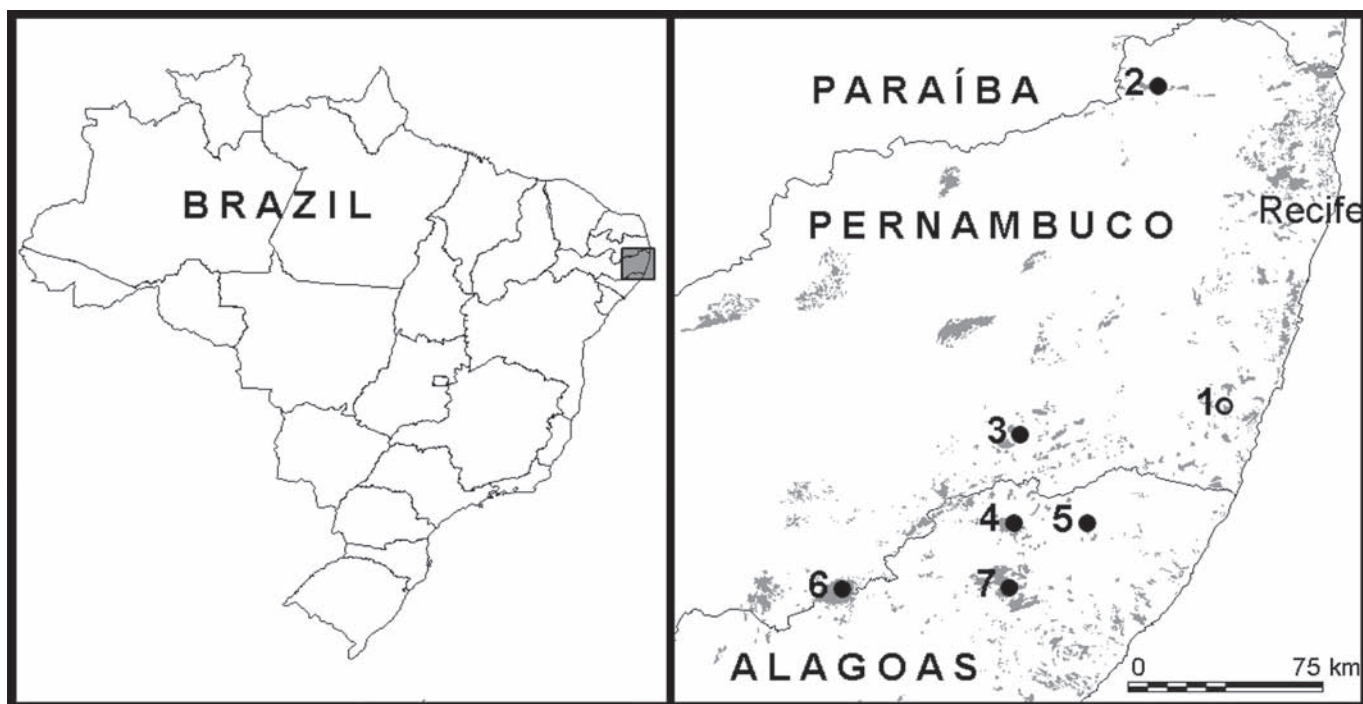


FIGURE 1: Distribution of the Orange-bellied Antwren in the states of Alagoas and Pernambuco: 1) Usina Trapiche (location of the record presented here), 2) Engenho Água Azul and Mata do Estado, 3) Frei Caneca Private Reserve, 4) Engenho Coimbra, 5) Novo Lino, 6) Pedra Talhada Biological Reserve and 7) Murici Ecological Station (type-locality).

(*Phylloscartes ceciliae*). In the other known sites the species is still frequently recorded, especially at Jaqueira, where it seems to be very common even in the secondary forests near the Frei Caneca Private Reserve recently acquired by the NGO SAVE Brazil. This is a hopeful development for the conservation of this and all other endemic species that occur in the region. It's also common at Engenho Coimbra, Mata do Estado and Engenho Água Azul (S.A. Roda *in litt.* 2009).

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