

# On the Taxonomy and Holotype of *Rhachidelus brazili* Boulenger, 1908 (Serpentes: Dipsadidae)

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## INTRODUCTION AND AIM

*Rhachidelus* Boulenger, 1908, is a monotypic snake genus belonging to the tribe Pseudoboini and the family Dipsadidae. The genus and species were originally described based on a single male specimen from São Paulo, Brazil, sent by Vital Brazil, a renowned physician and public health expert. In his original description, Boulenger was succinct, relying primarily on scalation data, coloration, and scale characteristics. In this study, our aim is to review the diagnosis and the historical background of the holotype of *Rhachidelus brazili*.



Vital Brazil holding a mussurana



*Rhachidelus brazili*

## METHOD

- 11 specimens were analyzed
- Collected data: color pattern, morphometrics and scalation
- Holotype of *Rhachidelus brazili*



Natural  
History  
Museum

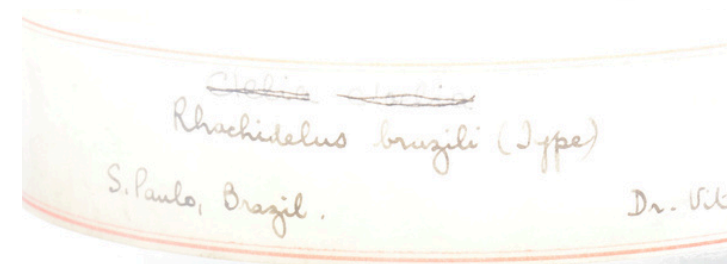
## RESULTS

*Rhachidelus brazili* can be distinguished from other species of the tribe Pseudoboini by the following combination of characters: (1) 25 dorsal scale rows at midbody; (2) smooth dorsal scales with 2 apical

pits; (3) widened vertebral row; (4) subcaudals mixed (single and divided); (5) single cloacal scale; (6) divided nasal scales; (7) one pre-ocular; (8) two post-oculars; (9) two or three pre-ventrals; (10) blackish dorsum; (11) dorsal coloration extending onto the lateral edges of the ventral scales.

Furthermore, by locating and confirming the specimen used by Boulenger in 1908, we were able to formally associate the registration number 1946.1.9.35 with the holotype of *R. brazili*.

### Holotype of *Rhachidelus brazili*



## CONCLUSION

By examining those specimens and confirming the identity, we provide an emended diagnosis for *Rhachidelus brazili* and clarify the historical context of its original description and the location of the holotype. This clarification not only stabilizes the taxonomic status of the species but also contributes to the historical documentation of its type material.