NEW RECORDS AND HABITAT FEATURES OF THE THREATENED HYDROMEDUSA MAXIMILIANI IN PROTECTED AREAS OF SERRA DA MANTIQUEIRA

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Hydromedusa maximiliani (Mikan 1825) is a threatened species endemic to Atlantic Forest, which inhabits streams with clear and cold water of primary rain forest. The narrow species range is located in regions of intense development in the eastern Brazil and are few records of it at protected areas. Our aim is to report two new records of H. maximiliani at Rio de Janeiro state and evaluate the physical features of their habitat. The first record was in the Itatiaia National Park (INP; 22°27’09”S and 44°36’57”W, WGS 84, 840 m of elevation), where we registered one adult individual at 13 November 2013 in a primary montane forest inside a clear water stream. The second record was from one juvenile in the Pedra Selada State Park (22°19’50.73”S and 44°31’58.56”W, WGS 84, 1014m of elevation) in December 2014 near the Preto River edge. In November 2013, we measured the physical features of INP streams where we made our first record. We subdivided the stream using cross-sectional transects into continuous sections that were each 10 m in length, where we measured depth, bank-full width, wetted width and the bank angle following the Index of Biological Integrity protocol. In the INP, H. maximiliani inhabit shallow (mean depth of 11,9±7,6 cm) and narrow streams (mean bank full width of 2,5±1,2 m and mean wetted width of 1,2±0,7 m) with a mean bank angle of 54,5±26,1 degrees. Because H. maximiliani habitats are subject to dam construction, discharge of chemicals, agricultural, industrial effluents, among others, the protected areas are the most effective way to maintain their habitat integrity. Considering the high conservation value of our study area, the Serra da Mantiqueira have potential to support a large population of H. maximiliani that need to be systematically evaluate.

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