

RESUMO - ENTOMOLOGIA E ACAROLOGIA

**OCCURRENCE OF AMHETEROZERCON (MESOSTIGMATA:
HETEROZERCONIDAE) IN SNAKES FROM ACRE STATE, BRAZIL**

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Mites of the family Heterozerconidae are rarely reported in association with reptiles, especially snakes, and information regarding their geographic distribution and host range in Brazil remains limited. Previous records of heterozerconid mites in Brazilian snakes include *Oxyrhopus melanogenys* (Tschudi) and *Pseudoboa nigra* (Duméril, Bribon & Duméril) in Acre state, *Epicrates cenchria* (L.) in Amazonas state, *Phalotris bifossatus* (Raddi) in Mato Grosso do Sul state, and *Erythrolamprus aesculapii* (L.) and *Xenodon merremii* (Wagler) in São Paulo state. During field activities carried out in March 2026 at the Estação Ecológica Rio Acre, specimens of *Amheterozercon* Fain were manually collected using forceps from the indigo snake, *Drymarchon corais* (Boie) and the coral snake, *Micrurus obscurus* (Jan). The mites were mounted on microscope slides and identified based on morphological characters, including dorsal and ventral shield ornamentation, gnathosoma, and leg chaetotaxy, following recent taxonomic studies of Heterozerconidae. The present study expands the known host range of *Amheterozercon*, representing the first record of occurrence associated with *D. corais* and *M. obscurus*. These findings contribute to the knowledge of the parasitic fauna associated with neotropical snakes, expanding the available data on ectoparasite diversity and host-parasite associations in the Amazon region. Furthermore, this study reinforces the importance of parasitological surveys in poorly sampled areas of the western Brazilian Amazon, where knowledge regarding the diversity of mites associated with wildlife remains limited.

Palavras-chave: herpetofauna; host-parasite interactions; taxonomic diversity.