The genus *Mesoclemmys* Gray, 1863 is currently composed of 10 species distributed throughout South America (Uetz et al., 2016). Among these, the tuberculate toad-headed turtle *Mesoclemmys tuberculata* (Luederwaldt, 1926) was described from two specimens from “Villa Nova (State of Bahia)”, currently Municipality of Senhor do Bonfim (type locality), and one specimen from Fortaleza, state of Ceará, Brazil (Luederwaldt, 1926; Bour & Pauler, 1987). It has not been evaluated by the IUCN, but is categorized as Least Concern (LC) in Brazil (Vogt et al., 2015). It occupies an area of 1.079.735,10 km² as estimated by a minimum convex polygon (Vogt et al., 2015).

This species is endemic to Brazil and is widely distributed in the areas of Caatinga, Cerrado and coastal ecosystems of the Atlantic Forest, throughout the northeastern region states and a small part of the southeast region in the northern portion of the state of Minas Gerais (Batistella et al., 2008, Silveira & Valinhas, 2010, Moura et al., 2015, Caldas et al., 2016). It is strongly associated with the São Francisco river basin, as well as the Atlantic-Northeastern basin and semi-arid region of the Parnaíba river (Santana et al., 2016). This turtle’s distribution is well documented in the literature (see Moura et al., 2014; Caldas et al., 2016; Santana et al., 2016), however, there is a distribution gap of approximately 570 km between the southern limit of its known range and the (Santana et al., 2016).

Here we present new records of *M. tuberculata* that fill this distribution gap. These records were obtained through searches of online databases [Coleção de Répteis da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG-REP) and Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University(HU-Zoo) were accessed through SpeciesLink website; (vouchers not examined)] (SpeciesLink, 2017), consulting the Coleção Herpetológica do Museu de Zoologia João Moojen da Universidade Federal de Viçosa (MZUFV), Minas Gerais state, Brazil and from individuals found during fieldwork.

We report five new records for *M. tuberculata* (Table 1; Figure 1). Three records are from SpeciesLink database, two in the state of Minas Gerais (Municipalities of Buritizeiro and Januária) and one in the state of Bahia (Municipality of Jacaraci). A second record for the Municipality of Bonito de Minas was found in the collection of the Museu de Zoologia João Moojen (MZUFV 0046C). A final locality record was made
during fieldwork where we observed two specimens (not collected; Figure 2) inside a permanent pond located in a pasture matrix on 28 June 2016, at 18:55 h, in the Paracatú municipality, Minas Gerais state. Our records fill the distribution gap at the southern limit of the range of *M. tuberculata* and does not support the hypothesis that this turtle has a disjunct distribution.

Likewise, the registry in the municipality of Jacaraci, in the state of Bahia, revealed that *M. tuberculata* also occupies areas of high altitudes in the northern part of the Serra do Espinhaço, increasing the range of environments known for this species (e.g. Buhlmann et al., 2009; T.T.W.G., 2011; Santana et al., 2016).

Table 1. Recorded localities for *Mesoclemmys tuberculata*. Datum of the coordinates: WGS 84.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point on map</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Buritizeiro</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>-17.3778°S, -44.9462°W</td>
<td>SpeciesLink (UFMG-REP 821)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bonito de Minas</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>-15.3595°S, -44.9131°W</td>
<td>MZUFV 0046C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Paracatú</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>-16.9723°S, -46.5858°W</td>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Januária</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>-15.4833°S, -42.4333°W</td>
<td>SpeciesLink (HU-Zoo, R 38682)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jacaraci</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>-14.8497°S, -42.4333°W</td>
<td>SpeciesLink (UFMG-REP 820)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgments. Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) provides PhD scholarship to EAP (Process 141718/2016-1).

References


Accepted by Eric Munscher