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THE PRESENCE OF *WILFREDOMYS OENAX* (RODENTIA: CRICETIDAE: SIGMODONTINAE) IN SÃO PAULO STATE, SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL: A LOCALLY EXTINCT SPECIES?

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ABSTRACT

The Rufous-nosed Mouse Wilfredomys oenax is a rare Sigmodontinae rodent known from scarce records from northern Uruguay and south and southeastern Brazil. This species is under-represented in scientific collections and is currently classified as threatened, being considered extinct at Curitiba, Paraná, the only confirmed locality of the species at southeastern Brazil. Although specimens from São Paulo were already reported, the presence of this species in this state seems to have passed unnoticed in recent literature. Through detailed morphological analyzes of specimens cited in literature, the present work confirms and discusses the presence of this species in São Paulo state from a specimen collected more than 70 years ago. Recently, by the use of modern sampling methods, other rare Sigmodontinae rodents, such as Abrawayomys ruschii, Phaenomys ferrugineous and Rhagomys rufescens, have been recorded to São Paulo state. However, no specimen of Wilfredomys oenax has been recently reported indicating that this species might be locally extinct. The record mentioned here adds another species to the state of São Paulo mammal diversity and reinforces the urgency of studying Wilfredomys oenax.

KEY-WORDS: Atlantic Forest; Scientific collection; Threatened species.

INTRODUCTION

Mammal species lists based on voucher-specimens and literature records are essential for offering groundwork to understand a species distribution and even to assess their conservation status. In Brazil, efforts were made to produce state check-lists using such data (e.g., Vivo, 1998; Cherem *et al.*, 2004; Cáceres *et al.*, 2008; Vivo *et al.*, 2011; Silva *et al.*, 2013), which often also deal with conservational status of each species at some Brazilian states (e.g., Machado, A.B.M. *et al.*, 1998; Bergallo *et al.*, 2000; Marques *et al.*, 2002; Mikich & Bérnills, 2004; Bressan *et al.*, 2009).

São Paulo is one of the most studied states in Brazil regarding to fauna. Mammal lists from this state have been elaborated since the late XIX century (Von Ihering, 1894; Vieira, 1944a, b, 1946, 1950, 1953; Vivo, 1998). The most updated of those lists was made by Vivo *et al.* (2011), which reported 231 species and described recent advances on mammal studies from which some facts draw attention to São Paulo state mammal fauna, such as the presence of recently described species (Leite *et al.*, 2008; Percequillo *et al.*, 2011; Costa *et al.*, 2011) and even a new genus (Percequillo *et al.*, 2011). New data on mammal species from São Paulo are obtained through new inventories

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