

## **Preliminary occurrence of fossil Squamata (Reptilia; Lepidosauria) in Brazil – Lizards**

<sup>1</sup>Carvalho, A.B., <sup>2</sup>Zaher, H. e <sup>1</sup>Kellner, A.W.A. <sup>1</sup>Museu Nacional/UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; <sup>2</sup>Universidade de São Paulo, Instituto de Biologia, São Paulo, Brazil.

In Brazil, fossil lizards are recorded from the Cretaceous to the Pleistocene. There are several specimens, most unstudied, which provide important information regarding the diversity of those reptiles in this country, including clades that were not previously recorded in South America.

The Early Cretaceous Santana Formation (Crato Member) of the Araripe Basin Ceará has furnished a basal Iguania (Olindalacerta brasiliensis Evans & Yabumoto 1998), which is based on a juvenile specimen. At least five more lizards have been found in this deposit, some showing the impression of soft tissue and scales, which, based on the number of caudal vertebrae, belong to at least two different taxa. Pristiguana brasiliensis Estes & Price 1973, from the Late Cretaceous of Peirópolis, Minas Gerais, is referred to Iguanidae. There are also records of Gekkonidae, Scincidae, Teiidae, and Iguanidae from Paleocene deposits of the Itaboraí Basin, Rio de Janeiro. Studies of new material from this basin have shown the presence of one Anguimorpha, the first evidence of this clade in South America. One specimen of Ameiva ameiva was unearthed in Pleistocene cave deposits of Minas Gerais.

Detailed studies of the Brazilian material, which are now being done, will clear the relationships of those taxa and lead to the test previous hypothesis of faunal interchanges between South and North America.