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FIRST REPORT OF OCCURRENCE RUNNING OVER OF TAYRAS (*Eira barbara* LINNAEUS, 1758 - CARNIVORE, MUSTELIDAE) IN THE JAMARI VALLEY, RONDÔNIA, WESTERN AMAZON

PRIMEIRO REGISTRO DE OCORRÊNCIA DE ATROPELAMENTOS DE TAYRAS (*Eira barbara* LINNAEUS, 1758 - CARNIVORE, MUSTELIDAE) NA REGIÃO DO VALE DO JAMARI, RONDÔNIA, AMAZÔNIA OCIDENTAL

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ABSTRACT

The present study reports for the first time the occurrence of tayras (*Eira barbara* Linnaeus, 1758 - Carnivore, Mustelidae) in the Jamari Valley, Rondônia, western Amazon. This record and the stories of local residents indicate the possibility of a population of *E. barbara* in the region, although, there is no clear information to substantiate this hypothesis, and future studies are needed to understand the distribution of this species in the Jamari Valley.

Keywords: Tayras, Carnivorous and Canids

RESUMO

O presente estudo relata pela primeira vez a ocorrência de iraras (*Eira barbara* Linnaeus, 1758 - Carnivore, Mustelidae) no Vale do Jamari, Rondônia, Amazônia Ocidental. Este registro e as descrições dos moradores locais indicam a possibilidade de uma população de *E. barbara* na região, embora, não há informações claras para comprovar esta hipótese, sendo indicados estudos para uma melhor compreensão da distribuição desta espécie no Vale do Jamari.

Palavras-chave: Tayras, Carnívoros e canídeos

Neotropical Carnivores are essential to the maintenance of biodiversity and biological communities, but they are particularly vulnerable to local extinctions due to their relatively large home ranges, low density and persecution by humans, it is important to

highlight the necessity to conduct research on these predators which weren't properly studied and understood in relation to their behavior and distribution [1,2].

The tayras, *Eira barbara*, are robust mustelids that can cross a large area of non-

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forest, can subsist on agricultural mosaics without cover forest, and may subsidize their diet taking advantage of small animals such as chicken [3]. It occurs from northern Argentina to Mexico where it is considered endangered [4], has crepuscular or nocturnal habit, solitary and usually found in forested areas. It is lean and muscular, with a long tail and round and small ears. Its color may vary throughout its distribution area [5].

In Brazil it occurs in all regions: South [5], Southeast [6-13], Midwest [3, 14], Northeast [15] and North [16,17].

Although studies report the state of Rondônia as the region of occurrence of E.

barbara [18], there are no sufficient studies proving its presence and distribution in it. The present study reports for the first time the occurrence of tayras (*Eira barbara* Linnaeus, 1758 - Carnivore, Mustelidae) in the Jamari Valley, Rondônia, western Amazon.

The Jamari Valley, is located in the central northern state of Rondonia, composed by the following cities: Campo Novo de Rondônia, Buritis, Monte Negro, Alto Paraíso, Cacaupônia, Cujubim, Rio Crespo, Machadinho do Oeste and Ariquemes (Figure 1).

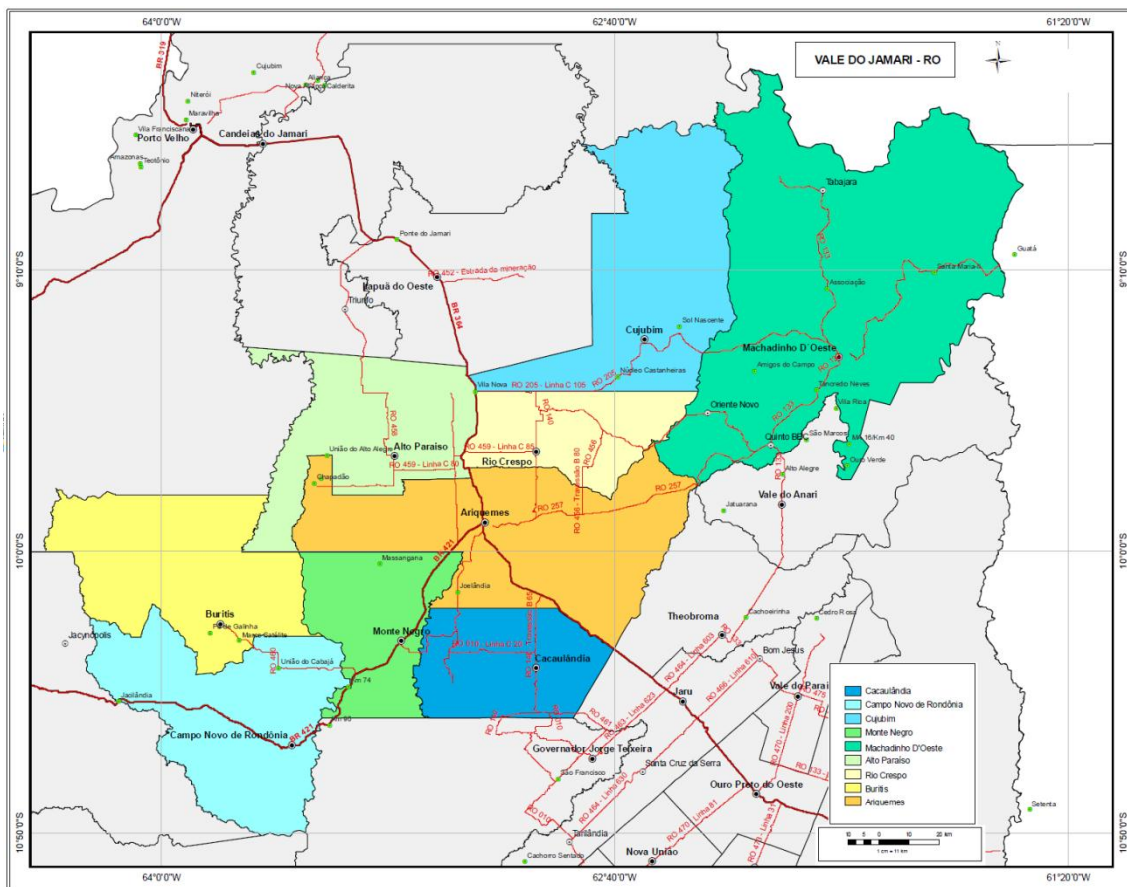


Figure 1. Map of Jamari Valley [19].

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The report occurred in 08/17/2012, near a forest on the banks of RO Highway 421 (Lat 10°7'22.39" S and Long 63°13'57.05" W), which connects the counties

of Ariquemes to Monte Negro. The specimen was found dead at around 09:00 h in the morning, where it is believed that it has been hit overnight (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Specimen *E. barbara*, found dead margins highway RO 421 (Picture: Dionatas Ulises de Oliveira Meneguetti).

According to locals, this species has been seen in the region, and has caused chicken attacks.

This record and the stories of local residents indicate the possibility of a population of *E. Barbara* in the region, however, there is no clear information to substantiate this hypothesis. Thus, future studies are needed to understand the distribution of this species in the Jamari Valley, surveys on the occurrence of

mammals especially those that depend on the remaining area of native forest are essential to their preservation and conservation as well as collaboration with biological studies of populations and communities.

Many basic information, but essential to the vast majority of neotropical carnivores yet to be obtained, and these animals should be observed in their natural environment, to obtain a better understanding of their biology, because due to lack of information many

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species are not included lists of threatened fauna or simply assigned to categories of animals on which there is little knowledge [20] and these gaps create problems when trying to develop conservation actions, especially for susceptible animals at the top of the food chain [21].

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