A nest of Blue-bellied Parrot *Triclaria malachitacea* in southern Brazil

Blue-bellied Parrot *Triclaria malachitacea* is endemic to the Atlantic Forest of Brazil[2]. The species' ecological requirements are still poorly known, it being one of the most secretive parrots in the world[3]. In respect of its breeding biology, some data are available from captivity plus descriptions of eight nests in the wild[1]. However, most wild nests lack even basic measurements. As this species is Near Threatened globally[2], more data are important. Here we describe the first nest of *T. malachitacea* found in Santa Catarina, southern Brazil.

On 24 October 2015, during an avifaunal survey of montane forest (28°11'18.80"S 49°23'21.91"W; 490 m) near the southern headquarters of Serra Furada State Park, municipality of Grão Pará, Santa Catarina, Brazil, we heard begging calls emanating from a natural cavity (Fig. 1) in the trunk of a live *Alchornea triplinervia* (Euphorbiaceae) tree. Using a phone camera, an adult and two nestlings of *T. malachitacea* (Fig. 2a) were recorded inside.

Next day, at 07h00, we returned to measure the nest. The tree was c.12 m tall and 72 cm dbh. The nest was 2.11 m above ground, the nest entrance was 5 cm wide, 8 cm tall and the cavity was 27 cm deep. Using the phone camera, we could still see two nestlings (Fig. 2b) and a pure white elliptical egg (Fig. 2c). Nestlings were covered with greyish plumes with some green feathers emerging. Given the age of the nestlings (c.10 days), the egg was presumably not viable.

This is the most detailed description of a wild nest of *T. malachitacea* to date[1], as well as the first confirmed breeding evidence in Santa Catarina. In relation to previous data, our observations corroborate the known breeding period in southern Brazil (October–January)[1,3], mean nest height above ground[1] and the results of Bencke[1], who found that *Alchornea triplinervia* may be one of the most suitable nesting trees in southern Brazil. Clutch

Figure 1. Nest of Blue-bellied Parrot *Triclaria malachitacea* in the trunk of a live *Alchornea triplinervia* tree, Serra Furada State Park, Santa Catarina, Brazil (Karoline Ceron)

size, eggs and nestlings are still little known in the wild[1]. Bencke observed two eggs in one nest, while data from captivity suggest clutches of 2–4 eggs[1], which puts our observation of two nestlings plus one egg within the known range.

References
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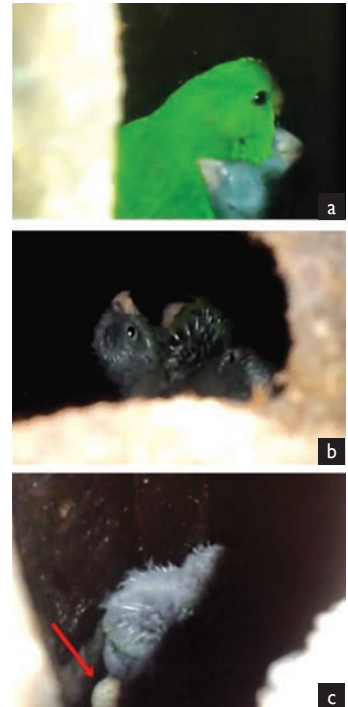

Figure 2. Contents of a Blue-bellied Parrot *Triclaria malachitacea* nest, Serra Furada State Park, Santa Catarina, Brazil: (a) adult with two nestlings, (b) the two nestlings, (c) one nestling and an egg (Rafael Spilere Romagna)

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