

A range extension for Cipó Canastero *Asthenes luizae* in Brazil

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O Lenheiro-da-Serra-do-Cipó *Asthenes luizae* é uma espécie ameaçada, de distribuição restrita e endêmica dos campos rupestres da Serra do Espinhaço. A espécie é pouco estudada e conhecida apenas da localidade tipo, Alto da Boa Vista (19°17'S 43°34'W). Entre setembro de 1996 e abril de 1998, foram realizadas nove expedições à Serra do Espinhaço com o objetivo de estudar a espécie. Nesse trabalho apresentamos registros inéditos de quatro novas populações, Cachoeira Ribeirão do Campo (19°05'S 43°33'W), Campo Alegre (18°48'S 43°53'W), Capivari (18°26'S 43°25'W) e o primeiro registro para o interior do Parque Nacional da Serra do Cipó, na nascente da Cachoeira da Farofa (19°23'S 43°33'W). A Serra do Espinhaço tem recebido estudos ornitológicos descontínuos e fragmentados e a espécie pode ocorrer em outros locais ainda não amostrados. Novos trabalho de campo são necessários para melhor determinar a distribuição geográfica de *Asthenes luizae*, pois o conhecimento desses pontos pode significar um importante passo para a conservação de locais adequados à preservação do Lenheiro-da-Serra-do-Cipó.

The Cipó Canastero *Asthenes luizae* was recently described from the Espinhaço Range, Minas Gerais state, Brazil, where it is known only from the type-locality, Alto da Boa Vista (19°17'S 43°34'W), a restricted area within the Serra do Cipo region, but outside Serra do Cipó National Park^{5,9}. A small dataset of vocalisations and information on behaviour and ecology of this population is available^{3,5,6,7,8}. Due to its poorly known distribution and brood-parasitism by Shiny Cowbirds *Molothrus bonariensis*, the species was considered Vulnerable; some conservation measures have been proposed^{1,2,10}.

Cipó Canastero occurs on isolated and difficult-to-access mountain tops. The vegetation in these areas consists of Bromeliaceae (*Dyckia* sp., *Encholirium* sp., *Vriesia* sp.); Clusiaceae (*Kielmeyera* sp.); Euphorbiaceae (*Euphorbia phosphorea*); Malvaceae (*Pavonia* sp.); Orchidaceae (*Stenorrhynchus* sp., *Pseudolaelia* sp.) and Velloziaceae (*Vellozia* sp., *Barbacenia* sp.). Three other threatened birds, endemics to the Espinhaço Range (Hyacinth Visorbearer *Augastes scutatus*, Grey-backed Tachuri *Polystictus superciliaris* and Pale-throated Pampa-finch *Embernagra longicauda*) are also recorded in the same habitat⁴.

During the course of nine field expeditions to the Serra do Espinhaço in September 1996–April 1998, we documented the species several times with tape-recordings, photographs and sight records. It was found in four new localities, including the first recorded site within Serra do Cipó National Park. Here we report on these observations.

Farofa stream (19°23'S 43°33'W)

Three Cipó Canastero were observed and tape-recorded by P.H.C. Cordeiro on 20 November 1997, at Serra da Bandeirinha (c.1,300 m), central plateau of Serra do Cipó National Park, Jaboticatubas municipality, Minas Gerais. The birds were found on groups of rocky crags with Bromeliaceae, Orchidaceae and Velloziaceae. Shiny Cowbird was not recorded, but Pale-throated Pampa-finch, Hyacinth Visorbearer and Grey-backed Tachuri were also recorded in the area.

Ribeirão do Campo waterfalls (19°05'S 43°33'W)

About 10 birds were recorded by P. H. C. Cordeiro on 11 April 1998 at Serra do Intendente (c.1,100 m), Conceição do Mato Dentro municipality, Minas Gerais. It is fairly common on rocky slopes, boulders and crevices. Shiny Cowbird was not recorded, but Pale-throated Pampa-finch and Hyacinth Visorbearer were also observed here.

Campo Alegre (18°48'S 43°53'W)

Two birds were observed and tape-recorded by T. A. Melo Junior on 8 February 1998 at Serra Talhada (c.1,000 m), Santana do Pirapama municipality, Minas Gerais. The birds were found on an isolated rocky plateau. A number of Stripe-tailed Yellow-finch *Sicalis citrina*, Pale-throated Pampa-finch and Collared Crescentchest *Melanopareia torquata* were recorded near this site.

Capivari (18°26'S 43°25'W)

A single bird was recorded by M. F. Vasconcelos on 13 January 1998 at Serra do Gavião (c.1,100 m),

Serro municipality, Minas Gerais. The bird vocalised a typical metallic-like trill (contact call) three times and then completed the descending song. The area was predominantly mountainous, and the elevation of the rocky plateau varied from 1,000–1,200 m. Hyacinth Visorbearer and Grey-backed Tachuri were also observed here.

Very few ornithological studies have been undertaken in the Espinhaço Range. Further fieldwork in suitable habitat is required to delimit the species' range more accurately, as it is possible that other locations also hold Cipó Canastero.

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