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***Cabassous unicinctus* (Cingulata: Dasypodidae)**

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Abstract: *Cabassous unicinctus* (southern naked-tailed armadillo) is a nocturnal, solitary, fossorial myrmecophage that ranges east of the Andes across the central lowlands of South America. It occupies a wide range of habitats including grassland, rain forest, cultivated pastures, flooded grasslands, forest patches, disturbed habitats, and gallery forests. *C. unicinctus* is listed as “Least Concern” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Key words: anteater, armadillo, Edentata, edentate, South America, Xenarthra

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***Cabassous* McMurtrie, 1831***Dasypus* Linnaeus, 1758:50. Part.*Tatu* Blumenbach, 1779:109. Part.*Tatus* Olfers, 1818:220. Part; incorrect subsequent spelling of *Tatu* Blumenbach, 1779.*Xenurus* Wagler, 1830:36. Type species *Dasypus gymnurus* Wied-Neuwied, 1826 (= *Dasypus unicinctus* Linnaeus, 1758), by monotypy; preoccupied by *Xenurus* Boie, 1826 (Aves).*Cabassous* McMurtrie, 1831:164. Type species *Dasypus unicinctus* Linnaeus, 1758, by monotypy; proposed as a subgenus of *Dasypus* Linnaeus, 1758.*Arizostus* Gloger, 1841:114. Type species *Dasypus gymnurus* (= *Tatus gymnurus* Olfers, 1818), by monotypy.*Tatoua* Gray, 1865:378. Type species *Dasypus unicinctus* Linnaeus, 1758, by monotypy; proposed as a subgenus of *Dasypus* Linnaeus, 1758.*Ziphila* Gray, 1873:22. Type species *Ziphila lugubris* Gray, 1873, by monotypy.*Lysiurus* Ameghino, 1891:254. Replacement name for *Xenurus* Wagler, 1830, which is preoccupied by *Xenurus* Boie, 1826 (Aves).*Cabassus* Trouessart, 1905:820. Incorrect subsequent spelling of *Cabassous* McMurtrie, 1831.*Cabassus* Neveu-Lemaire and Grandidier, 1911:103. Incorrect subsequent spelling of *Cabassous* McMurtrie, 1831.

CONTEXT AND CONTENT. Order Cingulata, family Dasypodidae, subfamily Tolypeutinae, tribe Priodontini (Möller-Krull et al. 2007; Wetzel et al. 2007). The genus includes 4 species: *Cabassous centralis*, *C. chacoensis*, *C. tatouay*, and *C. unicinctus*. Synonymy modified from Miller (1899),

Gardner (2005), and Wetzel et al. (2007). A key to species is in Wetzel et al. (2007).

***Cabassous unicinctus* Linnaeus, 1758**

Southern Naked-tailed Armadillo

Dasypus unicinctus Linnaeus, 1758:50. Type locality “Africa;” restricted to Suriname, South America, by Thomas (1911:141).

Dasypus duodecim cinctus Schreber, 1774:plate Ixxv. Type locality unknown; restricted to Cayenne, French Guiana, by Wetzel et al. (2007:152). Redrawn from plate xl “Le Kabassou” (Buffon 1763:262).



Fig. 1.—An adult male *Cabassous unicinctus* from the central Pantanal, Nhecolândia region, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. Used with permission of the photographer, Walfrido Tomas, Embrapa, Pantanal.

- [*Dasypus*] *octodecimcinctus* Erxleben, 1777:113–114. Type locality “in America australi.”
- Dasypus undecimcinctus* Illiger, 1815:108. Nomen nudum.
- Dasypus multicinctus* Thunberg, 1818:68. Type locality “Brasilien.”
- D[asypus]. gymnurus*: Wied-Neuwied, 1826:529. Not *Tatus gymnurus* Olfers, 1818; unavailable name.
- Tatusia tatouay*: Lesson, 1827:311. Part; not *Loricatus tatouay* Desmarest, 1804.
- Dasypus tatouay*: Schomburgk, 1840:34. Not *Loricatus tatouay* Desmarest, 1804.
- X[enurus]. squamicaudis* Lund, 1843:lxiv. Nomen nudum.
- Dasypus gymnurus* var. γ J. A. Wagner, 1844:171. Not *Tatus gymnurus* Olfers, 1818.
- D[asypus]. verrucosus* J. A. Wagner, 1844:172, footnote, 175. Type locality “dem nördlichen Südamerika (Guiana).”
- Xenurus squamicaudis* Lund, 1845:lxiv–lxv. Type locality “Rio das Velhas Floddal,” Lagoa Santa, Minas Gerais, Brazil.
- Dasypus hispidus* Burmeister, 1854:287. Type locality “Lagoa Santa,” Minas Gerais, Brazil.
- Dasypus loricatus* J. A. Wagner, 1855:174. Type locality unknown.
- Xenurus [(Tatoua)] unicinctus*: Gray, 1865:378. Name combination.
- Xenurus [(Xenurus)] hispidus*: Gray, 1865:378. Name combination.
- Xenurus verrucosus*: Fitzinger, 1871:233. Name combination.
- Xenurus loricatus*: Fitzinger, 1871:239. Name combination.
- Xenurus latirostris* Gray, 1873:22. Type locality “Brazils, St. Catherine’s.”
- Ziphila lugubris* Gray, 1873:23. Type localities “Brazils, St. Catherine’s ... S. America, Demerara;” restricted to Demerara, Guyana, by Wetzel et al. (2007:152).
- Xenurus lugubris*: Thomas, 1880:402. Name combination.
- Xenurus duodecimcinctus*: Jentink, 1888:213. Name combination.
- Lysiurus unicinctus*: Ameghino, 1891:254. Name combination.
- [*Lysiurus (Lysiurus)] latirostris*: Trouessart, 1898:1147. Name combination.
- [*Lysiurus (Lysiurus)] loricatus*: Trouessart, 1898:1147. Name combination.
- [*Lysiurus (Lysiurus)] hispidus*: Trouessart, 1898:1147. Name combination.
- [*Lysiurus (Ziphila)] lugubris*: Trouessart, 1898:1148. Name combination.
- Tatoua unicincta*: Miller, 1899:2. Name combination.
- Tatoua (Tatoua) hispida*: Miller, 1899:5. Name combination.
- Tatoua (Ziphila) lugubris*: Miller, 1899:6. Name combination.
- Cabassous unicinctus*: Palmer, 1899:72. First use of current name combination.
- [*cabassous*. *loricatus*]: Palmer, 1899:72. Name combination.
- Cabassous]. hispidus*: Palmer, 1899:72. Name combination.
- Cabassous]. (Ziphila) lugubris*: Palmer, 1899:72. Name combination.
- [*Cabassus (Cabassus)] unicinctus*: Trouessart, 1905:820. Name combination.
- [*Cabassus (Cabassus)] latirostris*: Trouessart, 1905:820. Name combination.
- [*Cabassus (Cabassus)] loricatus*: Trouessart, 1905:820. Name combination.
- Dasypus 12-cinctus*: Goeldi and Hagmann, 1904:98. Type locality “Belem,” Para, Brazil.
- Lysiurus hispidus*: Cabrera, 1917:59. Name combination.
- [*Cabassous] loricatus*: Yepes, 1928:467 [page 7 of reprint separate]. Part; not *Dasypus loricatus* J. A. Wagner, 1855.
- Cabassous lugubris*: Talmage and Buchanan, 1954:77. Part, not *Ziphila lugubris* Gray, 1873.
- Cabassous squamicaudis*: Paula-Couto, 1950:537. Name combination.
- Cabassous unicinctus*: Pine, 1973:61. Name combination.
- [*Cabassous]. u[nicinctus]. squamicaudis*: Wetzel, 1980:323. Name combination.
- [*Cabassous]. unicinctus unicinctus*: Wetzel, 1980:323. Name combination.
- Cabassous unicinctus* Fausto, 2012:335. Unjustified emendation of *unicinctus* (Linnaeus, 1758).
- CONTEXT AND CONTENT.** Context as for genus. Synonymy modified from Gardner (2005) and Wetzel et al. (2007). *C. unicinctus* has 2 subspecies (Wetzel 1980; Wetzel et al. 2007).
- C. u. squamicaudis* (Lund, 1845). See above; *12-cinctus* (Goeldi and Hagmann), *gymnurus* (Wied-Neuwied), *hispidus* (Burmeister), *latirostris* (Gray), *loricatus* (Fitzinger), *loricatus* Palmer, *loricatus* (Trouessart 1898, 1905), *loricatus* (J. A. Wagner), *lugubris* Talmage and Buchanan, *lugubris* (Thomas), *unicinctus* (Goeldi and Hagmann), and *unicinctus* Pine are synonyms.
- C. u. unicinctus* (Linnaeus, 1758). See above; *cinctus* (Schreber), *duodecim* (Schreber), *gymnurus* (J. A. Wagner), *loricatus* Yepes, *lugubris* (Gray), *lugubris* Palmer, *lugubris* (Trouessart), *multicinctus* (Thunberg), *octodecimcinctus* (Erxleben), *tatouay* (Lesson), *tatouay* (Schomburgk), *undecimcinctus* (Illiger), and *verrucosus* (J. A. Wagner) are synonyms.
- NOMENCLATURAL NOTES.** Hershkovitz (1959) attributes *Tatus gymnurus* Olfers, 1818, to *C. unicinctus*, but *Tatus gymnurus* Olfers, 1818, is currently identified as a synonym of *C. tatouay* (Wetzel et al. 2007). The generic name, *Cabassous*, is a latinized form (latinized by McMurtrie [1831]) of a French term used by Cuvier and Buffon, originally from a native name, capacou (Galibi, the native language of people from French Guiana), and referring to an armadillo (Palmer 1899; Gotch 1979). The species name,

unicinctus, is from the Latin *cinct*, meaning girdled, and perhaps from the Latin *uncia* meaning 12th (Borror 1960), thus referring to the 12 bands. In addition to southern naked-tailed armadillo, other common names are mole menore and tatú de rabo (Wetzel 1982); cabassou, cabassú, lugubre, tatu-rabo-de-couro, tatu-de-rabo-mole, tatu iba, and tatuai (Emmons 1990); cabasu de orejas largas (Eisenberg 1989); armadillo rabo de carne Amazónico, armadillo de cola desnuda, armadillo rabo de trapo, cachicambo rabo de carne, carachupa, cuspa, cuspa montañera común, cuspa rabo blando, metecito, Naaktstaart Gordeldier, Nacktschwanz-Gürteltier, nopeish, peji, peji cola blanda, pejichi llorón, tatú aí, tatu bola, and tatu de rabo mole pequeno (Superina and Aguiar 2006); and leathered-tail armadillo (Tomas et al. 2009).

DIAGNOSIS

Compared with the other genus, *Priodontes*, in the tribe Priodontini Gray, 1873, *Cabassous* is smaller (condylonasal length < 125 mm versus > 170 mm; length of head and body < 495 mm versus > 700 mm) with a tail that lacks articulating bony scutes (Wetzel et al. 2007).

Cabassous unicinctus (Fig. 1) is morphologically similar to *C. centralis* (northern naked-tailed armadillo—Hayssen et al. 2013) but their ranges do not overlap: *C. unicinctus* occurs east of the Andes and *C. centralis* occurs west of the Andes. *C. unicinctus* is smaller than the greater naked-tail armadillo, *C. tatouay* (mean length of head and body: 382 versus 458 mm—Redford 1994; Hayssen 2014).

GENERAL CHARACTERS

Cabassous unicinctus has a dark gray dorsal carapace with 10–13 movable bands in the middle of the body (Emmons 1990). Scutes are squarish and fingernail size (Emmons 1990), some (primarily *C. u. squamicaudis*) with bristles on the posterior margins (Miller 1899). Head is broad with a blunt nose and large, round, funnel-like ears that are often frayed and can fold to cover the meatus. The body armor extends between the ears and covers the nape of the neck. The tan ventrum is hairless. The gray tail usually has a pale tip and has only small inconspicuous scutes. The feet have 5 pale claws. In the forefoot, the centermost claw is enlarged (Pine 1973; Wetzel 1980; Emmons 1990; Wetzel et al. 2007).

Females are larger than males (Carter and Encarnaçao 1983; Emmons 1990). Mean (with parenthetical range, *n*) external measurements (mm; taken by author) for female and male, respectively, adult *C. unicinctus* (subspecies not specified) from the American Museum of Natural History were: length of head and body, 381.5 (307–489, 4), 355.5 (300–450, 6); length of tail, 156.3 (135–185, 4), 158.3 (120–

190, 6); length of hind foot, 73.5 (67–80, 4), 71.5 (65–80, 6); length of ear, 36.7 (25–44, 3), 29.6 (20–40, 4). Mean (with parenthetical range, *n*) of external measurements (mm, kg) for adults of unknown sex in the Cerrado, Brazil, were: length of head and body, 382.3 (322–425, 9); length of tail, 124.9 (111–148, 9); length of hind foot, 71.0 (61–75, 9); length of ear, 28.0 (24–32, 7); mass, 2.78 (2.1–4.0, 9—Redford 1994). Mean (with parenthetical *SD*, range, *n*) external measurements (mm) for *C. u. squamicaudis* and *C. u. unicinctus*, respectively, were: length of head and body, 324.0 (23.7, 290–345, 4), 386.8 (30.5, 347–445, 12); length of tail, 115.5 (22.6, 87–140, 4), 184.6 (11.9, 165–200, 12); length of hind foot, 71.5 (5.1, 65–76, 4), 79.2 (3.9, 70–84, 12); length of ear, 27.0 (2.2, 25–30, 4), 35.2 (2.7, 30–40, 11—Wetzel 1980). Measurements (mm) of 2 *C. u. squamicaudis* from northeastern Paraguay were: length of head and body, 321, 347; length of ear, 29, 32 (Smith et al. 2011).

Body mass of specimens in Guyana was 2.2–4.8 kg (Meritt 1985), in Suriname and Venezuela averaged 2.9 kg (Wetzel 1985), and in Venezuela was 4.8 kg (Eisenberg et al. 1979). Mean mass (kg) for 3 females and 2 males, respectively, at the American Museum of Natural History was 3.84 and 2.95. Mean mass (kg) and parenthetical range for 2 *C. u. squamicaudis* and 9 *C. u. unicinctus*, respectively, were 1.7 (1.6–1.8) and 2.9 (2.5–3.6—Wetzel 1980).

Skull (Fig. 2) is triangular in profile (Miller 1899). Cranial measurements (mm, taken by author) for an adult (unknown sex) *C. unicinctus* at the United States National Museum (113422/A49614) were: skull: greatest length, 77.66; width across zygoma at postorbital process, 43.80; length of upper toothrow, 26.92; posterior margin of last molar to tip of premaxilla, 48.52; mandible: greatest length, 58.90; width from angle to coronoid, 18.48; length of lower toothrow, 24.23; posterior margin of last molar to tip of mandible, 40.14. Mean (with parenthetical *SD*, range, *n*) cranial and mandibular measurements (mm) for *C. u. squamicaudis* and *C. u. unicinctus*, respectively, were: condylonasal length, 78.1 (4.4, 67.7–85.1, 21), 85.6 (2.5, 80.5–90.0, 16); adjusted rostral length, 36.2 (2.7, 29.8–40.0, 24), 41.6 (3.2, 37.6–44.5, 18); palatal length, 45.0 (3.1, 37.5–50.3, 25), 50.4 (3.2, 45.7–54.5, 19); postrostral length, 42.1 (2.5, 36.6–47.0, 21), 44.6 (1.0, 43.0–45.9, 16); palatal width, 11.7 (1.1, 9.4–14.1, 25), 12.5 (0.6, 11.3–13.9, 21); anterior rostral width, 12.2 (0.8, 10.6–13.9, 24), 13.1 (0.6, 11.5–14.0, 20); interlacrimal width, 32.9 (2.3, 28.3–35.3, 25), 36.4 (1.6, 32.9–38.5, 21); interorbital width, 26.6 (1.4, 24.5–29.5, 25), 26.6 (1.1, 25.0–28.6, 21); zygomatic width, 43.7 (2.9, 38.7–47.1, 25), 45.7 (2.0, 40.2–49.0, 20); mastoidal width, 37.4 (2.2, 32.5–41.7, 23), 41.3 (1.7, 37.5–43.9, 20); height of cranium, 33.8 (2.1, 29.6–38.2, 24), 35.7 (1.3, 32.1–38.0, 21); length of maxillary toothrow, 27.8 (2.6, 24.3–31.1, 10), 29.9 (1.8, 27.1–33.3, 21); length of mandibular toothrow, 25.6 (2.2, 22.9–29.3, 13), 28.4 (1.1, 26.3–31.1, 18—Wetzel 1980). Mean (with parenthetical *SD*, range) measurements (mm) of



Fig. 2.—Dorsal, ventral, and lateral views of skull and lateral view of mandible of an adult *Cabassous unicinctus* of unknown sex (United States National Museum [USNM] 113422/A49614) from Chapada, Mato Grosso, Brazil. Greatest length of skull is 77.7 mm.

maxillary and mandibular teeth for 21 *C. u. squamicaudis* and 10–12 *C. u. unicinctus*, respectively, were: maxillary teeth: 4th, length, 2.9 (0.32, 2.4–3.4), 3.1 (0.31, 2.5–3.4); width, 2.6 (0.26, 2.0–3.0), 2.2 (0.23, 1.9–2.7); 5th, length, 2.8 (0.31, 2.6–3.7), 3.2 (0.41, 2.6–3.8); width, 2.8 (0.26, 2.4–3.1), 2.5 (0.16, 2.2–2.7); 6th, length, 2.7 (0.33, 2.0–3.5), 2.9 (0.27, 2.4–3.2); width, 2.7 (0.31, 2.0–3.0), 2.6 (0.24, 2.2–3.0); 7th,

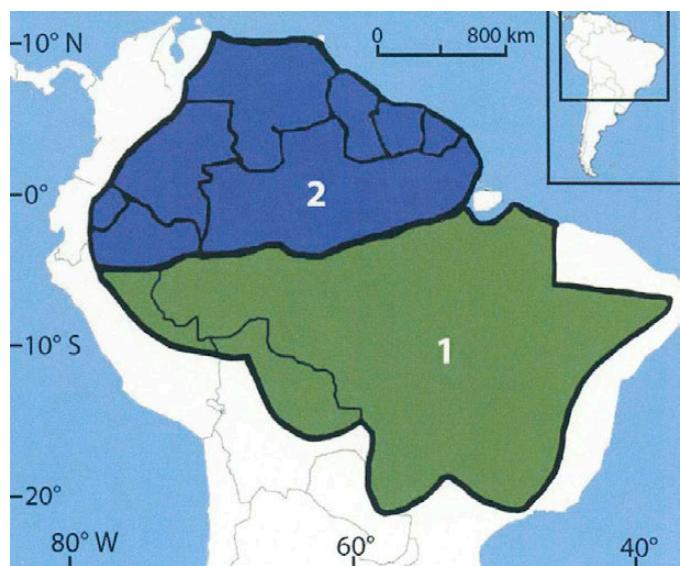


Fig. 3.—Geographic distribution of *Cabassous unicinctus* (modified from Wetzel et al. 2007; Superina and Abba 2010; Smith et al. 2011). Subspecies are 1, *C. u. squamicaudis*; 2, *C. u. unicinctus*.

length, 2.5 (0.25, 2.1–2.8), 2.7 (0.28, 2.1–3.0); width, 2.6 (0.30, 2.0–3.0), 2.5 (0.36, 2.1–3.1); mandibular teeth, 5th, length, 3.1 (0.39, 2.5–3.8), 3.1 (0.34, 2.6–3.5); width, 2.7 (0.24, 2.3–3.2), 2.6 (0.23, 2.2–2.9); 6th, length, 2.8 (0.20, 2.6–3.2), 3.0 (0.40, 2.3–3.5); width, 2.7 (0.23, 2.3–3.1), 2.5 (0.27, 1.9–2.7); 7th, length, 2.5 (0.25, 2.1–2.8), 2.5 (0.45, 2.0–3.1); width, 2.6 (0.30, 2.0–3.0), 2.3 (0.44, 1.7–2.7)—Wetzel 1980).

DISTRIBUTION

Cabassous unicinctus ranges in South America “east of the Andes in Venezuela, the Guianas, Brazil and in the lowlands of eastern Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia” (Fig. 3; Wetzel et al. 2007:151). It also occurs in northeastern Paraguay (Smith et al. 2011). In Brazil, its potential geographic range includes “the Amazon, Cerrado, and Pantanal, plus a small region of the Atlantic Forest” (Anacleto et al. 2006:204). *C. u. unicinctus* extends to the southern shore of the Amazon (Anacleto et al. 2013), whereas *C. u. squamicaudis* is found north of the Amazon (Wetzel 1980). No fossils are known.

FORM AND FUNCTION

Form.—*Cabassous unicinctus* has no incisors or canines. One specimen had 9 upper and 7 or 8 lower uniform cheek teeth. The side of the lower jaw with the 7 teeth had a double-rooted premolar (United States National Museum, USNM 113422/A49614—Miller 1899). Dental microwear on M6 (6th tooth from anterior end of premaxilla) from 11

animals included an average of 9.95 scratches and 55.32 pits; gouges were present on 82% of the teeth (Green 2009). Vertebral formula is 7 C, 12–13 T, 3–4 L, 9–11 S, 15–20 Ca, total 46–55 (Wetzel 1980), although vertebrae intermediate in type (thoracic–lumbar or lumbar–sacral) are known (Varela-Lasheras et al. 2011). Mean (*SD*) limb measurements (mm) for 8 *C. unicinctus* were: humeral length, 54.6 (8.0); proximal humeral length, 38.0 (5.8); ulnar length, 59.9 (8.9); olecranon length, 28.6 (3.0); functional femoral length, 58.2 (9.1); proximal femoral length, 26.1 (4.5); leg length, 44.6 (6.4); midleg width, 19.6 (2.8—Vizcaíno and Milne 2002).

The salivary glands (parotid, submandibular, and sublingual) secrete neutral polysaccharides and sialic acid (Fava de Moraes 1965). Vascular innervation in the salivary glands is well developed with a fine network of varicose fibers in the adventitia of the small muscular vessels (Rossoni et al. 1981). The veins do not form sinuses in the red pulp of the spleen (Udroiu 2006). The placenta is hemochorial and discoidal (Wetzel 1980).

Body armor on the crown of the head consists of 30–60 scutes that diminish in size anteriorly. Those on the cheeks are thin and set in distinct rows, whereas those on the ears are roundish and about 1 mm in diameter (Miller 1899). Inner surface of the ear is naked (Miller 1899). Mean counts (with parenthetical *SD*, *n*) of scutes for *C. u. squamicaudis* and *C. u. unicinctus*, respectively, were: cephalic shield, 54.0 (5.5, 14), 34.8 (2.1, 19); 1st complete band of scapular shield, 20.1 (1.9, 10), 17.3 (1.3, 11); last band, scapular shield, 26.3 (1.7, 10), 26.8 (1.5, 12); 3rd movable band, 28.0 (1.3, 11), 28.1 (1.2, 9); 4th movable band, 27.4 (1.3, 13), 27.4 (1.6, 22); 1st band, pelvic shield, 24.4 (1.6, 11), 25.6 (0.7, 12); last band, pelvic shield, 6.6 (1.0, 11), 8.4 (0.7, 12); number of movable bands, 12.0 (0.4, 15), 12.1 (0.6, 23—Wetzel 1980).

ONTOGENY AND REPRODUCTION

Reproduction may be year-round (Bonato et al. 2008). Sperm in the ductus deferens have a rouleau (stacked) arrangement of 4–10 cells (Heath et al. 1987). The sperm head is “flattened into a large wafer-thin spatulate shape with a length of 18 μm , width of 16 μm , and thickness of only 0.2 μm ” (Heath et al. 1987:153). The sperm tail is 80 μm long (Heath et al. 1987).

ECOLOGY

Two captive animals lived 4 years, 1 month and 7 years, 6 months (Weigl 2005). In a montane region of Venezuela, density was estimated at 0.75–1.2 individuals/km² (Eisenberg et al. 1979). In the Brazilian Cerrado, population

density was estimated as 0.27 individuals/ha (Bonato et al. 2008).

Cabassous unicinctus uses a wide range of habitats from rain forest to grassland (Emmons 1990), including swamp and disturbed habitats (Loughry and McDonough 1997); cultivated pastures, floodable grasslands, forest patches, and Cerrado savannas (Tomas et al. 2009); and areas with complex vegetation structure such as gallery forests (Bonato et al. 2008).

Arthropods (chiefly ants and termites) compose > 90% of the diet of *C. unicinctus* (Emmons 1990; Bonato et al. 2008). Acarina and Isoptera (Cornitermes, Rhynchotermes, and unidentified isopterans) were present in the feces of 1 animal (Anacleto 2007).

Ectoparasites include the sand flea *Tunga terasma* (Siphonaptera—Pampiglione et al. 2009) and the tick *Amblyomma pseudoconcolor* (Ixodidae—Botelho et al. 1989). Endoparasites include the nematodes *Ascaroterakis pulchrum* and *Bairdascaris dasypodina* (Vicente 1965; Sprent 1982); species within *Aspidodera*, *Delicata* (including *D. delicate*, *D. ransomi*, *D. similis*, and *D. uncinata*), and *Moennigia* (Cañizales and Guerrero 2010; Ezquiaga et al. 2012); as well as *Hadrostrongylus ransomi* and *Trichohelix tuberculata* (Hoppe et al. 2009). The protozoan *Trypanosoma cruzi* also is present (Hoare 1972). *Salmonella* bacteria were isolated from 4 of 7 animals (Loureiro 1985). One animal was polymerase chain reaction negative for the leprosy bacterium, *Mycobacterium leprae* (Pedrini et al. 2010).

Cabassous unicinctus is considered a game animal for native people in the Rupununi region of Guyana (Read et al. 2010). The indigenous Awá-Guajá, Parakanã, and Xavante peoples in Brazil hunt *C. unicinctus* (Leeuwenberg 1997; Fausto 2012; Prado et al. 2012). For the Parakanã, hunting has increased after contact with western culture (Fausto 2012).

BEHAVIOR

Cabassous unicinctus is reported to be nocturnal and solitary in the Neotropics (Emmons 1990) but diurnal in the Brazilian Cerrado (Bonato et al. 2008). Activity increased when arthropod abundance decreased (Bonato et al. 2008). *C. unicinctus* emits piglike grunts when handled (Emmons 1990).

Cabassous unicinctus is primarily fossorial (Pine 1973). *C. unicinctus* rotates its body as it digs, forming a round burrow (Carter and Encarnaçao 1983). In Mato Grosso, Brazil, 22 burrows averaged 12.1 cm in width and 12.4 cm in height (Anacleto and Diniz-Filho 2008). In Minas Gerais, Brazil, burrows were 15–17 cm in diameter for most of their length but became flattened (5 cm tall by 15 cm wide) at 45 cm from the entrance (Carter and Encarnaçao 1983). Burrow slope was 35.3° and the slope of the ground around the entrance was 7.9° (Carter and Encarnaçao 1983).

Burrow entrances tend to be placed such that the prevailing winds blow away from the entrance (Carter and Encarnaçao 1983) and 90% of burrows were in termite mounds (Carter and Encarnaçao 1983).

GENETICS

The diploid chromosome number ($2n$) is 46 with 6 large metacentric, 5 medium submetacentric, 5 medium and small metacentric, and 6 acrocentric pairs (Jacintho et al. 2009). The X is a medium submetacentric and the Y is the smallest acrocentric chromosome (Jacintho et al. 2009). Genetic sequences are in GenBank for the following: ADRA2B, BRCA1, VWF, ND1, 12S rRNA, and 16S rRNA (Barros et al. 2003; Delsuc et al. 2003).

CONSERVATION

Cabassous unicinctus is listed as “Least Concern” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Superina and Abba 2010). Hunting and habitat loss are major threats (Tomas et al. 2009). In French Guiana, it is protected by national and regional laws (Catzeffis and de Thoisy 2012). Details on legal protection in other countries are not readily available.

REMARKS

The southern naked-tailed armadillo is part of the mythos of the Amazonian Parakanã: “In the beginning it was men who menstruated, but when the naked-tailed armadillo (*Cabassous unicinctus*) shot the moon with an arrow, the blood dripped onto the women, who had not heeded the advice to stay inside their houses” (Fausto 2012:186).

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