

Macroscopic anatomy of the stomach and intestine of *Boa constrictor constrictor*

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Boas and pythons are the most known constrictor representatives of the Boidae family. The red-tailed boa (*Boa constrictor constrictor*) presents variable size up to 4 m in length, head detached from its body, vertical pupil and nocturnal habits. Its cylindrical body is slightly compressed laterally which sets it apart as a partly tree living serpent. Its voluminous body evidences its strong constrictor musculature. In general, serpents' digestory tract is a linear tube that extends itself from the oral cavity until the cloaca. The intestine is, when compared to those of birds and mammals, relatively short with little flexions. This study has as objective, to characterize the anatomical aspects of the red-tailed boa's stomach and intestine, describing its topographical relations. Eight animals previously fixated in formaldehyde at 10% were used, under donation terms n.º. 060161/2006 e n.º. 060156/2006 of *Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Renováveis* (IBAMA-MA) and by the *Comitê de Ética e Experimentação Animal* (CEA) of UEMA's Veterinary School. Under magnifying glass' aid, the animals were macroscopically dissected. The red-tailed boa's stomach, as well as its intestine and other organs, are located in the celomatic cavity. The stomach is located between the esophagus and the intestine, presented as a single fuse. It's slightly thinner cranially, more dilated caudally, with the possibility of occupying the entire celomatic cavity, then immediately tapers itself until its initial communication with the intestine. That's where a triad constituted of gallbladder, pancreas and spleen is located. The intestine presents itself as a single tube, with no apparent divisions visible. Its anterior portion is convoluted while the posterior segment is presented as a tube and follows until the cloaca keeping topographical relations to the ureters. It's concluded that the macroscopic morphology of the red-tailed boa's stomach and intestine is similar to what is found in literature.

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