

*This little known ground-haunting bird occurs at two small, unprotected forested sites in coastal Bahia, and must be at great risk from habitat destruction.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Bahia Tapaculo (see Remarks) is known from only two localities in coastal Bahia, eastern Brazil: Valença, where an adult male and an adult female were collected on 15 and 17 October 1983, and Ilhéus, where a male was obtained on 7 July 1944 (Teixeira and Carnevalli 1989).

**POPULATION** Numbers are not known.

**ECOLOGY** Birds have been collected in lowland (45 m) forest fragments, inhabiting “flooded areas of thick vegetation”; the gonads of the pair collected in mid-October, which are recorded as “active”, measured 4 (female) and 3 (male) mm; although these birds were “collected beside the nest” (Teixeira and Carnevalli 1989), no other information on breeding has been provided.

**THREATS** Deforestation has been extensive in the Atlantic Forest region of eastern Brazil (for a full discussion see Sick and Teixeira 1979), and particularly severe in the lowlands of Bahia south of Salvador, such that only small fragments remain (see Threats under Stresemann's Bristlefront *Merulaxis stresemanni*). There is no indication in Teixeira and Carnevalli (1989) that either site for the Bahia Tapaculo enjoys any protection.

**MEASURES TAKEN** None is known.

**MEASURES PROPOSED** In view of the very limited knowledge of the Bahia Tapaculo, further fieldwork is needed to rediscover it and to provide information on its ecological requirements and status. Searches for the species in coastal Bahia should also target a second endemic rhinocryptid, Stresemann's Bristlefront, and the Fringe-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena atra* (see relevant accounts).

**REMARKS** This species is considered to be closely related to the White-breasted Tapaculo *Scytalopus indigoticus* from south-east Brazil; their distributions seem to parallel those of Stresemann's Bristlefront (see relevant account) and Slaty Bristlefront *M. ater* respectively (Teixeira and Carnevalli 1989).