

The tadpole of *Physalaemus fuscomaculatus* (Anura: Leptodactylidae), with a description of internal oral morphology¹

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Abstract

The external morphology and internal oral features of *Physalaemus fuscomaculatus* (Steindachner, 1864) tadpoles are described and compared with other species in the *Physalalemus biligonigerus* group (Lynch, 1970). Tadpoles of *P. fuscomaculatus* have a morphology similar to other species within this group and closely resemble those of *P. santafecinus* Barrio, 1965 and *P. biligonigerus* (Cope, 1861). The tadpole of *P. fuscomaculatus* differs from those of the *biligonigerus* group by the following characters: i) proportionally shorter tail compared to total length, ii) presence of two narrow ventral gaps on marginal papillae of the oral disc; iii) upper jaw sheath M-shaped; iv) presence of two lingual papillae; v) two to three pre-pocket papillae, and vi) three to five pustulations anterior to each buccal pocket. This is the first record of *Physalaemus fuscomaculatus* in southeastern Brazil.

Key words. *Physalaemus fuscomaculatus*, tadpole, oral morphology, new record, distribution, Leptodactylidae, Anura

Introduction

Approximately three quarters of the 4,400 known species of anurans have a tadpole phase at some stage of development (McDiarmid & Altig, 1999). For the majority of these species, tadpoles are present in aquatic habitats for longer periods than breeding adults and are often more easily collected (Altig & McDiarmid, 1999a). Consequently, larval sampling is