

A new species of *Colostethus* (Anura: Dendrobatidae) with maternal care from Kaieteur National Park, Guyana

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Abstract

A new species of *Colostethus* is described from Kaieteur National Park, Guyana, South America. The new species can be distinguished from close relatives by the presence of a median lingual process, first finger equal to second, Finger III not distinctly swollen but all fingers slightly swollen in males, presence of fringes on fingers, presence of a dorsolateral stripe from posterior corner of eye, absence of an oblique lateral stripe, and differences in tadpole morphology, colouration and pattern, vocalizations and ecology. This is only the second species of *Colostethus* known to provide maternal care for tadpoles.

Key Words: Amphibia, Dendrobatidae, *Colostethus kaiei* sp. nov., maternal care, Kaieteur National Park, Guyana, Guiana Shield

Introduction

Thus far no herpetological surveys have been focused on the Kaieteur National Park biota of central western Guyana, in spite of several efforts to obtain appropriate permits (C. J. Cole, pers. comm.). Its status of protected area was apparently a formidable obstacle to obtain both research and export permits for scientific specimens. While researchers were generally prevented from investigating and inventorying the biological diversity of Kaieteur National Park, itinerant gold and diamond miners were “permitted” to work in