



## Description of the tadpole of *Itapotihyla langsdorffii* (Anura: Hylidae)

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### Abstract

The tadpole of *Itapotihyla langsdorffii* is described and illustrated. Morphological data are compared with available information on tadpoles of casque-headed frogs occurring in the Atlantic Rainforest (genera *Aparasphenodon* and *Trachycephalus*), and also with *Osteocephalus*. The ontogenetic shift in tooth row formula and the great similarity on tadpole external morphology among these genera do not allow the use of the examined larval characters on generic diagnoses. However, we present some juvenile characters which may support the validity of *Itapotihyla*. The confrontation of the hypotheses concerning oral disk morphology and larval habitat types of the casque-headed tree frogs with the phylogeny of the Lophiohylini indicates that the ancestral larval habitat of this tribe was lentic and that the high number of tooth rows in this clade is not related to larval habitat.

**Key words:** *Itapotihyla*, *I. langsdorffii*, tadpole external morphology, juvenile characters, larval habitat, Lophiohylini

### Resumo

O girino de *Itapotihyla langsdorffii* é descrito e figurado. Dados morfológicos são comparados com as informações disponíveis para os girinos de outras “pererecas-de-capacete” que ocorrem na Mata Atlântica (gêneros *Aparasphenodon* e *Trachycephalus*), e também com *Osteocephalus*. A mudança ontogenética na fórmula dentária e a grande similaridade na morfologia externa dos girinos não permite a utilização dos caracteres larvários examinados em diagnoses genéricas. No entanto, apresentamos alguns caracteres de juvenis que poderiam suportar a validade de *Itapotihyla*. O confronto das hipóteses sobre morfologia do disco oral e tipos de ambiente larvários em “pererecas-de-capacete” com a filogenia de Lophiohylini indica que o ambiente larvário ancestral dessa tribo era lêntico e que o elevado número de fileiras de dentes nesse clado não se relaciona com o ambiente larvário.

**Palavras-chave:** *Itapotihyla*, *I. langsdorffii*, morfologia externa de girinos, caracteres juvenis, ambiente larvário, Lophiohylini

### Introduction

*Hyla langsdorffii* was described by Duméril & Bibron (1841) from Brazil, probably from the lowlands of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Bokermann 1966). Cope (1867) transferred the species to the genus *Osteocephalus* Steindachner. It was the only species of the genus occurring in the Atlantic Rainforest Domain (sensu Ab'Saber 1977); the remaining 17 species are Amazonian (Frost 2006). Faivovich *et al.* (2005) recently erected the monotypic genus *Itapotihyla* to allocate *Osteocephalus langsdorffii*. The exclusion of *I. langsdorffii* (Duméril & Bibron) from *Osteocephalus* was proposed exclusively in the basis of molecular characters, but the authors suggest the presence of the prominent subcloacal flap as a possible morphological autapomor-