



Rediscovery of *Phrynopus peruanus* Peters 1874 (Amphibia, Anura, Leptodactylidae)

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Abstract

Phrynopus peruanus, the type species of the genus, was described by Peters in 1874 based on three specimens from “Maraynioc in Peru”. In 1975, Lynch redescribed the species based on two preserved females, but skin texture, male characters, coloration in life, and precise information on the type locality and natural history remained unknown or uncertain. In December 2005, four specimens of *P. peruanus* were found at the Puna of Maraynioc at 3825 m a.s.l. in the Vitoc Valley (Departamento de Junín). Males were calling from inside the bunched Peruvian Feather Grass (*Stipa icchu*). Coloration in life and morphology of males and females are described along with observations on their habitat and ecology.

Key words: *Phrynopus peruanus*, Anura, *Phrynopus*, Peru, Andes, Puna, *Stipa icchu*

Resumen

Phrynopus peruanus, la especie tipo del género, fue descrita por Peters en 1874 basándose en tres especímenes de “Maraynioc in Peru”. En 1975, Lynch describe a la especie basándose en dos hembras preservadas, pero la textura de la piel, caracteres del macho, coloración en vivo, e información precisa sobre la localidad tipo e historia natural permanecen desconocidos o inciertos. En diciembre del 2005, cuatro especímenes de *P. peruanus* fueron encontrados en la puna de Maraynioc a 3825 m s.n.m. en el Valle de Vitoc (Departamento de Junín). Machos estuvieron cantando dentro de manojos de ichu (*Stipa icchu*). Se describe la coloración en vivo y morfología de los machos y hembras, junto con observaciones de su hábitat y ecología.

Palabras clave: *Phrynopus peruanus*, Anura, *Phrynopus*, Perú, Andes, Puna, *Stipa icchu*

Introduction

Frogs of the genus *Phrynopus* inhabit cloud forest, subparamo, paramo, and puna habitats in Andean Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia up to elevations of 4400 m a.s.l. (Lehr et al., 2005). Like other eleutherodactyline frogs, *Phrynopus* has direct development of terrestrial eggs. *Phrynopus* is phylogenetically nested within *Eleutherodactylus*, from which it differs morphologically in having fingers and toes without marginal grooves (Fig. 1) and terminal phalangeal bones that are knob-shaped rather than T-shaped (Lehr et al., 2005). The genus *Phrynopus* was established by Peters (1874) by describing *P. peruanus* based on three specimens from “Maraynioc in Peru”. Lynch (1975) redescribed *P. peruanus* based on two female specimens (UMMZ 89477[2]) from Maraynioc, but several characters such as skin texture, male characters and coloration in life, as well as information concerning habitat and type locality, remained unknown.