



A new species of *Phrynobatrachus* (Amphibia: Anura: Phrynobatrachidae) from north-western Guinea, West Africa

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Abstract

A new small *Phrynobatrachus* species from a gallery forest in north-western Guinea is described. *Phrynobatrachus pintoi* sp. nov. exhibits a combination of unique morphological characters and a distinctive color pattern, including: compact, oval body, short snout, warty dorsum and eyelid (although no eyelid cornicle is present), three pairs of large symmetric black spots on throat and breast, black spots on belly, more than one black bar on thighs and lower leg, finger and toe tips not expanded, and rudimentary web on foot. Furthermore, analysis of mitochondrial DNA from 16S rRNA reveals that this new species differs from other West African species of the genus by a minimum distance of 7%. Genetically the new species is closest to *Phrynobatrachus fraterculus*, *P. cornutus*, and *P. gutturosus*.

Key words: *Phrynobatrachus pintoi* sp. nov., conservation, gallery forest, Upper Guinea Forest zone

Introduction

The genus *Phrynobatrachus* Günther, 1862, family Phrynobatrachidae Laurent, 1941, currently comprises 76 species and is endemic to savannas and forests in sub-Saharan Africa (Poynton 1999; IUCN *et al.* 2004; Frost 2007). Seventeen valid species are recognized to occur in West Africa west of the Dahomey Gap, the majority living in forest habitats (Schjøtz 1964; Perret 1988; Rödel & Ernst 2002b; Rödel *et al.* 2005a). Currently 13 *Phrynobatrachus* species are known to occur in Guinea (Guibé & Lamotte 1963; Rödel & Bangoura 2004; Rödel *et al.* 2004; Greenbaum & Carr 2005). During a recent survey in north-western Guinea (Hillers *et al.* 2006) we detected a small forest *Phrynobatrachus* that was not assignable to a described species. Subsequent morphological and genetic analyses revealed that it represents an unknown species that we describe herein.

Material and methods

Measurements were taken by one person (MOR) with a dial caliper (± 0.1 mm) or with an ocular micrometer in a dissecting microscope (± 0.1 mm, Zeiss Stemi SV 6). Additionally, we recorded the structure of the dorsal and ventral skin, and the color pattern. For comparative material investigated see Rödel and Ernst (2002b) and Appendix 1. Collection abbreviations: MCZ = Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, ZMB = Zoologisches Museum Berlin (Museum of Natural History, Humboldt University Berlin). The geographic position of the type locality was collected with a handheld GPS receiver (Garmin 12XL).