



## A new species of *Telmatobius* (Anura, Ceratophryidae) from Northern Jujuy Province, Argentina

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### Abstract

We describe a new species of frog of the genus *Telmatobius* from Laguna de Los Pozuelos basin in the northernmost region of Argentina in Jujuy province. Osteological, larval and karyological characters are also included. *Telmatobius rubigo* **sp. nov.**, was previously referred as *T. marmoratus*, from which is easily distinguishable by the coloration pattern of adults, metamorphs and tadpoles, and other morphological features. The new taxon is compared with the other species from Argentina and from the neighboring Andean regions of Bolivia and Chile.

**Key words:** Andean region; *Telmatobius* new species, external morphology, osteology, tadpoles, karyotype

### Resumen

Describimos una nueva especie de rana del género *Telmatobius* proveniente de la cuenca de Laguna de Los Pozuelos en el extremo norte de la provincia de Jujuy, Argentina. Incluimos además, una descripción osteológica, larval y cariológica de la especie. *Telmatobius rubigo* **sp. nov.**, fue previamente asignada a *T. marmoratus*, de la cual es fácilmente distinguible por los patrones de coloración de adultos, metamorfos y larvas y algunos otros caracteres morfológicos. El nuevo taxón es comparado con las otras especies de Argentina y de las regiones próximas de los Andes de Bolivia y Chile.

**Palabras clave:** Región andina, *Telmatobius* nueva especie, morfología externa, osteología, renacuajo, cariotipo

### Introduction

The genus *Telmatobius* Wiegmann is an important component of the Andean Herpetofauna, reaching some of the highest altitude environments suitable for amphibians at more than 5200 m (Seimon *et al.* 2007). Currently, it comprises 57 aquatic species that occupy different types of mountain freshwater habitats from Ecuador to Argentina (Frost 2008). In Argentina 13 species have been described, especially after R. Laurent prompted the study of the genus in the 1970's (Laurent 1970a, 1970b, 1973, 1977), which inhabit three distinctive environments: (1) The highlands, Puna or Altiplano; (2) intermediate altitude valleys; and (3) cloud forest above 1300 m. The taxonomy of these frogs has been complex since the early work of Parker (1940) and Vellard (1951, 1953, 1955, 1960, 1969 "1968"), especially due to intrinsic characteristics of *Telmatobius* that includes a lack of clear diagnostic characters and a high degree of intraspecific variation that blur species boundaries. This problem, in addition to the typological criteria for describing species, have