



A new species of *Elachistocleis* (Anura; Microhylidae) from the Brazilian Amazon

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Abstract

A new species of *Elachistocleis* (*E. magnus*) is described from the Amazon basin, in the municipality of Espigão do Oeste, state of Rondônia, Brazil. It differs from all other species of the genus by the combination of the following characters: i) size larger than 31 mm in adult males, ii) grayish ventral coloration, iii) presence of large post-commissural glands, iv) lack of red coloration in the body, and v) grayish dorsum in preserved individuals. There is dimorphism between males and females in size, structures and coloration. Vocalizations and larvae remain unknown.

Key words: Amphibia, Gastrophryinae, *Elachistocleis magnus* sp. nov., biodiversidade neotropical

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Elachistocleis* (*E. magnus*) é descrita da Amazônia Brasileira, tendo como localidade tipo o município de Espigão do Oeste, Estado de Rondônia. A espécie distingue-se das demais congêneras pela combinação dos seguintes caracteres: i) tamanho maior que 31 mm em machos adultos, ii) coloração ventral acinzentada, iii) presença de uma grande glândula posterior à boca, iv) ausência de coloração vermelha no corpo e v) dorso acinzentado em animais em preservativo. Foi evidenciado dimorfismo sexual nesta espécie em tamanho, estruturas e coloração. A vocalização e as formas larvárias desta espécie permanecem desconhecidas.

Introduction

The Brazilian southern limits of the Amazon remains poorly explored in terms of amphibian taxonomy. In recent years some expeditions have been conducted to this region for faunal inventories. As a result, many new species are being collected in this region (i.e., south of the state of Pará, north of the state of Mato Grosso, and the state of Rondônia) and some were recently described, such as *Chiasmocleis avilapiresae* Peloso and Sturaro 2008, *Hypsiboas leucocheilus* (Caramaschi & Niemeyer, 2003), *Proceratophrys concavitympanum* Giaretta, Bernarde, and Kokubum, 2000, and *P. rondoniae* Prado and Pombal Jr., 2008. On the other hand, the natural habitats of this region are being intensively modified due to building of hydroelectric power plants, livestock, and agriculture (personal observation). Hence, this still undiscovered biodiversity may be endangered even before the description of many species.

Elachistocleis Parker, 1927 is a Microhylidae genus for which recent molecular studies provide evidence for its placement in a South American microhylid radiation, the monophyletic Gastrophryinae (Van Bocxlaer *et al.* 2006; Van der Meijden *et al.* 2007). Presently the genus is composed of seven species [*E. bicolor* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838), *E. cesarii* (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920), *E. erythrogaster* Kwet and Di-Bernardo, 1998, *E. ovalis* (Schneider, 1799), *E. piauiensis* Caramaschi and Jim, 1983, *E. skotogaster* Lavilla, Vaira, and Ferrari, 2003, and *E. surinamensis* (Daudin, 1802)], which certainly needs taxonomic revision. Just as one example, Nelson (1973) reported 12 different advertisement calls from 12 different populations, therefore, these populations could represent distinct, but still not described species. Recently, Lavilla *et al.* (2003) clarified many questions about the *Elachistocleis ovalis* - *E. bicolor* controversy, thereby making possible the