



The tadpole of *Aplastodiscus cavicola* (Cruz & Peixoto, 1985) (Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae)

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The genus *Aplastodiscus* Lutz occurs from central and southeastern Brazil to adjacent Argentina and currently comprises 15 species. Faivovich *et al.* (2005) defined three species groups within the genus: *A. albofrenatus*, *A. albosignatus* and *A. perviridis*. The *A. albosignatus* group includes *A. albosignatus* (Lutz & Lutz 1938), *A. callipygius* (Cruz & Peixoto 1985), *A. cavicola* (Cruz & Peixoto 1985), *A. flumineus* (Cruz & Peixoto 1985), *A. ibirapitanga* (Cruz, Pimenta & Silvano 2003), *A. leucopygius* (Cruz & Peixoto 1985), and *A. sibilatus* (Cruz, Pimenta & Silvano 2003). Within this group only *A. albosignatus* and *A. leucopygius* have their larval forms described (Peixoto & Cruz 1983; Gomes & Peixoto 2002, respectively).

Aplastodiscus cavicola occurs in montane Atlantic Forest sites of the States of Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil (Cruz & Peixoto 1985; Leite *et al.* 2008). Herein, we describe *A. cavicola* tadpoles (stages 25–40; Gosner, 1960) collected in a swamp associated with permanent mountain-stream backwater, surrounded by a semi-deciduous gallery forest, at Serra da Moeda (43°53'11''S, 20°27'51''W; 985 m a. s. l.; Datum WGS 84), Municipality of Congonhas, State of Minas Gerais, in the Quadrilátero Ferrífero mountain region, southernmost edge of the Serra do Espinhaço Range, southeastern Brazil. Tadpoles were collected from October to February, 2007 and in July of 2008.

We reared some tadpoles until the end of metamorphosis to confirm species identity. We killed tadpoles in 5% lidocaine solution, then prepared and preserved them in 10% formalin and housed them at the tadpole collection of the Herpetological Collection of the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), State of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. External morphology descriptions and proportions were based on nine tadpoles in stages 36–37 (lots UFMG 292a; 311a; 700a). Measurements were based on 26 specimens between stages 27 and 40 (lots UFMG 292a, b; 311a,b; 700a,b). Terminology and measurements follow Altig and McDiarmid (1999): TL (total length), BL (body length), TAL (tail length), MTH (maximum tail height), TMH (tail muscle height), TMW (tail muscle width), IOD (interorbital distance), and IND (internarial distance); Lavilla & Scrocchi (1986): BH (body height), BW (body width), ED (eye diameter), ESD (eye–snout distance), END (eye–nostril distance), NSD (nostril–snout distance), ODW (oral disc width); and Grosjean (2005): DFH (dorsal fin height), and VFH (ventral fin height). Measurements were taken with a hand caliper (total, body and tail lengths) or under a Zeiss stereomicroscope with an ocular micrometer (other measures) to the nearest 0.1 mm. Quantitative data is presented as mean ± SD (interval). Data about the morphological features of known tadpoles of the *A. albosignatus* group was obtained from their original descriptions (Peixoto & Cruz 1983; Gomes & Peixoto 2002).

Description. Body depressed, globular/depressed in lateral view, ovoid in dorsal view (Figs. 1A and 1B). Total length 3.1–3.5 times body length; body 1.3–1.6 times longer than wide, 1.7–1.9 times longer than high, and slightly wider than high. Snout rounded in both the lateral and dorsal views. Nostrils oval, dorsally positioned, anterolaterally directed, equidistant from the eyes and from the snout tip, and with projections on their marginal rims. Eyes dorsally positioned and dorsolaterally directed, their diameter equaling 0.1–0.2 times the body width and height; interorbital distance 0.5 times the body width and 3.0–3.4 times the eye diameter. Oral disc ventral (Fig. 1C), lateroventrally emarginated with its width being about 0.3 times the body width; a single row of marginal papillae aligned on its dorsal portion, and alternate on its lateral and ventral portions, with narrow dorsal and ventral gaps, the first corresponding to