



A new species of *Allobates* (Anura, Dendrobatidae) from the western flank of the Serranía de Perijá, Colombia

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Abstract

A new species of nurse frog is described from the Serranía de Perijá, Colombia. The new species is the fourth *trans*-Andean species in the genus *Allobates*. The new species is very similar to *Allobates wayuu* and also resembles *A. melanolaemus*, *A. mcdiarmidi*, *A. niputidea*, *A. spumaponens* and *A. trilineatus*, but differs in the type of posterior joining of the dorsolateral stripe, pattern of coloration on the gular-chest region in males, ventral coloration in females, and by the pattern of the oblique lateral stripe; moreover, their similar are geographically isolate. Although *Allobates* is the second largest genus of dendrobatids (45 species), in Colombia, it has a diversity of thirteen species (including the new one described herein), nine *cis*-Andean and four *trans*-Andean. It is probable that the diversity in Colombia is underestimated.

Key words: *Trans*-Andean, nurse frogs, Dendrobatidae, Serranía de Perijá, Colombia

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de rana nodriza de la Serranía del Perijá, Colombia. Esta nueva especie es la cuarta con distribución *trans*-Andina del género *Allobates*. La nueva especie es muy similar a *Allobates wayuu* y también se asemeja a *A. melanolaemus*, *A. mcdiarmidi*, *A. niputidea*, *A. spumaponens* y *A. trilineatus*, pero difiere en el tipo de unión posterior de la línea dorsolateral, en el patrón de coloración sobre la garganta y el pecho en machos, en coloración ventral de las hembras, y por el patrón de la línea lateral oblicua; además, sus similares son geográficamente aislados. Aunque *Allobates* es el segundo género con más especies de dendrobátidos (45 especies), en Colombia, su diversidad es de trece especies (incluyendo la nueva aquí descrita), nueve *cis*-Andinas y cuatro *trans*-Andinas. Es probable que la diversidad en Colombia sea subestimada.

Palabras clave: *Trans*-Andino, ranas nodrizas, Dendrobatidae, Serranía de Perijá, Colombia

Introduction

Allobates is a genus with 45 species of Neotropical dendrobatid frogs, formerly included in the non-monophyletic genus *Colostethus sensu lato*. Frost (2011) recorded 46 species; however, Barrio-Amorós and Santos (2011) demonstrated that *Allobates rufulus* is an *Anomaloglossus*. The genus was re-defined mainly based on molecular sequences in the major revision of Dendrobatidae by Grant *et al.* (2006). The genus has a notable radiation in Amazonian forests, some species are found in the foothills of the eastern flank of the Cordillera de los Andes and few live in *trans*-Andean lowlands from Nicaragua to Ecuador (Frost 2011, Grant *et al.* 2006, 2007, Santos *et al.* 2009). In Colombia, the diversity of the genus *Allobates* is conformed by twelve nominal species, nine *cis*-Andean (*A. cepedai*, *A. femoralis*, *A. juanii*, *A. marchesianus*, *A. myersi*, *A. paleovarzensis* [recorded by tadpoles ICN 53112b], *A. picachos*, *A. ranoides* and *A. trilineatus*) and three *trans*-Andean (*A. niputidea*, *A. talamancae* and *A. wayuu*). It appears that many other species await description, since in a preliminary revision of the *Allobates* specimens deposited in Colombian amphibian collections, a new nurse frog here assigned to the genus *Allobates* was detected.