



The tadpole of *Scinax juncae* Nunes & Pombal, 2010 (Anura, Hylidae)

EDNEI DE ALMEIDA MERCÊS¹ & FLORA ACUÑA JUNCÁ²

Programa de Pós-graduação em Zoologia, Laboratório de Animais Peçonhentos e Herpetologia, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana – UEFS, Av. Transnordestina, CEP 44036-900, Feira de Santana, BA, Brasil.
E-mail: ¹crillbio@yahoo.com.br; ²florajunca@yahoo.com.br

Scinax juncae is a hylid frog inhabiting the forest edge in Atlantic Forest remnants in the southern State of Bahia, Brazil (Nunes & Pombal Jr. 2010). This specie is morphologically similar to *Scinax auratus* (Wied-Neuwied) and *Scinax cretatus* Nunes & Pombal Jr. (Nunes & Pombal Jr. 2010, 2011), both of them also inhabit the Atlantic Forest in the Northeast of Brazil. We describe herein the previously unknown tadpole of *Scinax juncae* and compare it with tadpoles of other species of *Scinax ruber* species group sensu Faivovich *et al.* (2005) distributed in the lowlands of the Atlantic Forest (Nunes & Pombal Jr. 2010).

We collected the tadpoles in September 2007, in permanent pond in the Michelin Ecological Reserve (13°50'S, 39°14'W), municipality of Igrapiuna, Bahia state, Brazil, the type-locality. Some tadpoles (n = 5) were raised in the laboratory until their metamorphosis was complete to confirm the identification of the species. The examined specimens are housed in the Zoological Museum of the State University of Feira de Santana (MZFS lot 609). The external morphological description follows Altig (1970), McDiarmid & Altig (1999) and Mercês & Juncá (2010) and was based on ten tadpoles in stage 36 (Limbaugh & Volpe 1957; Gosner 1960). The following measurements were taken in millimeters using stereoscopic microscope and 12 mm micrometrical lens (min–max; average \pm standard deviation): total length (TL; 24.9–30.5, 27.5 \pm 1.8), body length (BL; 7.5–8.4, 7.9 \pm 0.3), body maximum height (BH; 6.1–7.5, 7.0 \pm 0.4), body width (BW; 5.8–6.8, 6.3 \pm 0.3), tail length (TaL; 17.5–22.1, 19.5 \pm 1.6), maximum tail height (MTH; 6.1–8.4, 7.3 \pm 0.6), tail musculature height (TMH; 3.3–4.2, 3.7 \pm 0.3), dorsal fin height (DFH; 1.8–2.6, 2.1 \pm 0.2), ventral fin height (VFH; 1.9–2.5, 2.2 \pm 0.2), interorbital distance (IO; 3.5–4.0, 3.7 \pm 0.2), eye diameter (E; 1.9–2.1, 2.0 \pm 0.1), nostril major axis (N; 0.2–0.3, 0.3 \pm 0.0), nostril–snout distance (NS; 1.6–2.1, 1.8 \pm 0.2), oral disc width (ODW; 1.9–2.3, 2.2 \pm 0.1).

Description. Body ovoid/triangular in lateral view and ovoid in dorsal view (Fig. 1A,B), higher than width (BH/BW = 1.04–1.17); body height about 90% of body length (BH/BL = 0.81–0.95); body length about 30% of total length (BL/TL = 0.28–0.31). Snout rounded in dorsal and lateral view. Nostrils dorsolateral located, rounded, their major axis about 4% of body width (N/BW = 0.03–0.05). Nostril–snout distance about 23% of body length (NS/BL = 0.20–0.27). Eyes laterally located, eyes diameter approximately 32% of body width (E/BW = 0.29–0.34); interorbital distance about 60% of body width (IO/BW = 0.56–0.63). Spiracle single, sinistral, short, laterally positioned, located at the middle third of the body length, below the body lateral midline. Vent tube dextral, above the ventral fin margin. Tail large (TaL/TL = 0.69–0.72), slightly higher than body height (BH/MTH = 0.83–1.21). Tail musculature moderate (TMH/MTH = 0.46–0.57). Dorsal fin and ventral fin height almost equivalent (DFH/VFH = 0.84–1.10); dorsal fin beginning at posterior third of body. Ventral fin more arched than dorsal fin and both fins tapering to the tip of the tail in the last third. Tip of tail pointed. Oral disc anteroventral, not emarginated, about 35% of body width (ODW/BW = 0.29–0.38) (Fig. 1A,C,D). Marginal papillae in a single row with dorsal and ventral gaps. Submarginal papillae present in a single row on the disc sides and some dispersal papillae on the lateral (Fig. 1E). Median region of the posterior lip forms a labial arm located on the ventral gap, projecting upwards from the middle region of the oral disc when it is closed (Fig. 1D). Two pairs of enlarged cylindrical papillae on the lateral of labial arm (Fig. 1D). Strong jaw sheaths pigmented, serrated. Anterior jaw sheath arch-shaped, with medial projection and short lateral process. Four or five large serrations on the medial projection of the anterior jaw sheath. Posterior jaw sheath V-shaped. Labial tooth row formula 2(2)/3(1), third posterior labial tooth row reduced, located at border of labial arm (Fig. 1E).

Coloration in life. Body and tail yellowish-brown covered with dark brown and golden spots. Body with incomplete dark brown stripe from snout to eyes. Eyes coppery-brown. Venter white iridescent. **Coloration in formalin 5%.** Body and tail musculature cream covered with slight dark brown spots and small irregular markings. Venter transparent and slightly iridescent. Fins and tail musculature translucent with slight reticulate/spotted melanization.