

## A new species of *Boulengerula* Tornier (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) from an isolated mountain block of the Taita Hills, Kenya

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### Abstract

A new species of East African caeciliid caecilian, *Boulengerula niedeni* spec. nov. (Amphibia: Gymnophiona) is described based on a series of 11 specimens from Sagalla Hill, an isolated mountain block of the Taita Hills in southern Kenya. It differs from all other *Boulengerula*, except *B. taitanus* (Loveridge), in being pigmented with whitish marked annular grooves and from *B. taitanus* by its distinctive brownish colouration, an exposed sphenethmoid, a higher mean number of annuli and vertebrae, and different phallus morphology.

**Key words:** caecilians, taxonomy, herpetology, Eastern Arc Mountains, East Africa, phallus morphology, systematics

### Introduction

The caecilian fauna of East Africa currently comprises seven species of caeciliids and three species of scolecomorphids. As currently conceived (Wilkinson *et al.* 2004) the genus *Boulengerula* comprises six species, which makes it the most speciose of all African