

A new species of treefrog (Anura: Hylidae: *Litoria*) from the Huon Peninsula, Papua New Guinea

STEPHEN J. RICHARDS

Vertebrates Department, South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000, Australia
richards.steve@saugov.sa.gov.au

Abstract

Litoria singadanae sp. nov. is described from lower montane rainforest on the Huon Peninsula, Papua New Guinea. It is a moderately small green frog (two males 29.0–29.1 mm, a female 34.6 mm SV) with long limbs (TL/SV 0.55–0.60), extensively webbed fingers, and a large and prominent tympanum. The new species is unique among Australopapuan hylid frogs in possessing a transparent tympanic membrane. It is known only from the type locality at an altitude of 1280 m asl.

Key words: Amphibia, Hylidae, *Litoria*, New Species, Huon Peninsula, Papua New Guinea.

Introduction

The Huon Peninsula in north-eastern Papua New Guinea is dominated by the rugged Finisterre and Saruwaged Ranges. These mountains, exceeding 4000 m elevation, are the result of uplift associated with the geologically recent (3–3.7 MYA) collision of the Finisterre Terrain with the northern edge of New Guinea (Abbott *et al.* 1994). Although the lowland herpetofauna of the Huon Peninsula is extremely diverse, the recent origin of these mountains and their isolation from New Guinea's species-rich central cordillera has resulted in a relatively depauperate montane herpetofauna. No endemic frogs are known from high altitudes on the Huon Peninsula (Zweifel 1980) but knowledge of the montane fauna is restricted largely to collections by the 1964 Archbold Expedition near the eastern extremity of the peninsula (Van Deusen 1978). As a result the only comprehensive review of the peninsula's herpetofauna (Zweifel 1980) was restricted to species found east of about Lae on the Huon Peninsula, and the high altitude frog fauna of the vast Finisterre mountain block west of Lae remains virtually undocumented.