

The tadpole of *Rhinella proboscidea* (Anura: Bufonidae) with notes on adult reproductive behavior

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Abstract

The tadpoles of *Rhinella proboscidea* are described and compared with other tadpoles of the *Rhinella margaritifera* group. The tadpole of *R. proboscidea* is characterized by small size (17.8 mm), tooth row formulae 2(2)/3, oral papillae only on lateral margins, jaw sheath V-shaped, spiracle sinistral, vent tube medial, body oval in dorsal view and depressed in lateral view, and color in life light brown. Tadpoles of *R. proboscidea* are morphologically similar to other species within this group and closely resemble those of *R. margaritifera* from Cusco Amazónico and *R. castaneotica* from Pará, Brazil. *Rhinella proboscidea* is an explosive breeder and reproduction occurs in temporary pools or small headwaters of streams or soaks, during the rainy season.

Key words: *Rhinella margaritifera* group, tadpole morphology, Central Amazonia

Introduction

The *Rhinella margaritifera* (= *Bufo margaritifera* / *B. typhonioides*) species group was redefined by Hoogmoed (1990), but the taxonomy of this species group is complex and several cryptic species are called *R. margaritifera* throughout the Amazon Basin (Hoogmoed, 1990; Lötters and Köhler 2000; Duellman 2005). Since then, other species have been described and included in this group (Caldwell 1991; Lötters and Köhler 2000; Mijares-Urritia and Arends 2001; Caramaschi and Niemeyer 2003). According to Frost et al. (2006), the *Rhinella margaritifera* group is composed of 16 currently recognized species (*R. acustirostris* (Spix, 1824), *R. alata* (Thomiot, 1884), *R. castaneotica* (Caldwell, 1991), *R. ceratophrys* (Boulenger, 1882), *R. cristinae* (Vélez-Rodrigues and Ruiz-Carranza, 2002), *R. dapsilis* (Myers and Carvalho, 1945), *R. intermedia* (Günther, 1858), *R. iserni* Jiménez de la Espada, 1875, *R. margaritifera* (Laurenti, 1768), *R. nasica* (Werner,