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A new species of *Xenobatrachus* (Anura, Microhylidae) with a striking resemblance to *Xenorhina bouwensi*

RAINER GÜNTHER & RONNY KNOP
Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Invalidenstr. 43, 10115 Berlin, Germany.

Abstract

The micohylid frog *Xenobatrachus lanthanites* sp. nov. is described on the basis of recently collected material from the mountains of Yapen Island in Cenderawasih Bay, Papua, Province of Indonesia. With a mean snout-urostyle length of 21.9 mm, the new species is among the smallest of its genus. In most morphological, anatomical, ecological and behavioural details it is very similar to *Xenorhina bouwensi* (de Witte) from the mainland of north-western New Guinea. Data for the latter are also given. Biochemical studies did not furnish unequivocal results concerning the taxonomic status of the genus *Xenobatrachus.*

Key words: Amphibia, Microhylidae, *Xenobatrachus, Xenorhina,* New Species, mt 12S rRNA, Yapen Island, Papua, Indonesia

Introduction

The genus *Xenorhina* was erected by Peters in 1863 to accommodate a single species, namely *Bombinator oxycephalus* Schlegel, 1858. He regarded *Xenorhina* as similar to *Engystoma* and in an intermediate position between *Brachymerus* and *Rhinophrynus. Engystoma* and *Brachymerus* are today synonyms of microhylid genera (Parker 1934), whereas *Rhinophrynus* belongs to the Rhinophrynidae, which is distantly related to the microhylids according to recent phylogenetic interpretations (Duellman 2003). In 1878, Peters & Doria introduced the genus name *Xenobatrachus*, also for a single species, *X. ophiodon*. These authors noted resemblances in external morphology of their new genus to hylids and myobatrachids and in anatomical traits to *Calohyla* (*Kaloula*) and *Microhyla*. Interestingly, they did not mention any special relationship to *Xenorhina.* The most conspicuous trait of their new genus was the possession of two large, toothlike spikes on each vomero-palatine. Boulenger (1882) in his standard work on anuran taxonomy

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