

A new and threatened species of *Scinax* (Anura: Hylidae) from Queimada Grande Island, southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

We describe a new species of hylid frog, *Scinax peixotoi*, from Queimada Grande Island, southeastern Brazil. The new species belongs to the *Scinax perpusillus* species group, in which all known forms inhabit bromeliads, and is diagnosed by the following set of characters: moderate-size (males 18.8–20.7 mm SVL, females 22.4–25.1 mm SVL); canthus rostralis distinct; dorsal skin slightly rugose; and a distinct advertisement call with relatively low dominant frequency. The new species is known from a single population on Queimada Grande, an island of 43 ha, approximately 33 km distant from the coast of São Paulo State, where it inhabits scattered patches of bromeliads. The highly specialized and patchy habitat of *S. peixotoi*, associated with its small range size, make this species highly susceptible to stochastic or anthropogenic habitat disturbances, which could lead it to extinction.

Key words: Atlantic forest; new species; *Scinax*; Southeastern Brazil; Habitat specialization; Conservation

Introduction

The treefrog genus *Scinax* Wagler, 1830 contains 89 recognized species (Frost 2006) that in the past were arranged into seven species groups: *S. catharinae*, *S. perpusillus*, *S. rizibilis*, *S. rostratus*, *S. ruber*, *S. staufferi*, and *S. x-signatus* (Duellman and Wiens, 1992). More recently, the *S. rizibilis* and *S. x-signatus* species groups were considered synonyms of the *S. catharinae* and *S. ruber* groups, respectively (Pombal et al. 1995 a, b). In a cladistic analysis of the genus *Scinax*, Faivovich (2002) recognized only three species groups: *S. catharinae*, *S. ruber*, and *S. perpusillus*. Peixoto (1987) was the first to propose the *Scinax perpusillus* group, characterized by small species that breed exclusively in bromeliads, rosette-like plants capable of storing water in their leaf axils.

Seven species are currently recognized in the *Scinax perpusillus* group: *Scinax alcatraz* (Lutz, 1973); *S. atratus* Peixoto, 1988; *S. arduous* Peixoto, 2002; *S. littoreus* Peixoto, 1988; *S. melloi* Peixoto, 1988; *S. perpusillus* (Lutz and Lutz, 1939); and *S. v-signatus* (Lutz, 1968). All known forms of the *perpusillus* species group are found exclusively in terrestrial and arboreal bromeliads (e. g., Peixoto, 1987; Oliveira and Navas, 2004), and the entire clade is endemic to the Atlantic Forest of southeastern Brazil.

Lutz (1973) mentioned a distinct form of *Scinax perpusillus* from Queimada Grande Island in her catalogue of Brazilian hylids, but did not describe it formally. Likewise, Peixoto (1986), in his PhD thesis, recognized the population of Queimada Grande as a potentially new species based on poorly preserved specimens deposited in Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, but did not describe it formally.