



Description of the tadpoles of *Proceratophrys cristiceps* (Anura: Cycloramphidae, Odontophrynini)

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Abstract

The tadpoles of *Proceratophrys cristiceps* (Müller, 1884) are described based on specimens collected in a temporary pool at the Estação Experimental de São João do Cariri, in the municipality of São João do Cariri, Paraíba State, in NE Brazil. Tadpoles in stage 39 had a total length of 30.31 mm, a body length of 12.45 mm (corresponding to 41.07% of their total length), were ovoid shaped in dorsal view, slightly depressed in lateral view, and with a dental formula 2(2)/3(1). The morphological characteristics of the tadpole *P. cristiceps* were compared with other tadpoles of four species belonging to the *Proceratophrys bigibbosa* group.

Key words. Anura, Cycloramphidae, *Proceratophrys cristiceps*, tadpole, northeastern Brazil

Introduction

The genus *Proceratophrys* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920, is currently represented by 18 species distributed throughout a number of morphoclimatic domains, with some species almost exclusively terrestrial and demonstrating mimetic behavior (Sazima 1978). These species usually inhabit the leaf-litter, which makes them difficult to see (Izecksohn & Peixoto 1996), and is one of the factors that has limited studies on these animals (Boquimpani-Freitas 2002).

Our knowledge of the biology of many of the species of the genus *Proceratophrys* is very limited, being restricted to information concerning the feeding and behavioral habits of *Proceratophrys boiei* Wied-Neuwied, 1825 (Giaretta *et al.* 1998; Bertoluci 1998), *Proceratophrys cururu* Eterovick & Sazima, 1998 (Eterovick & Sazima 2000), and *Proceratophrys appendiculata* Günther, 1873 (Sazima 1978; Boquimpani-Freitas 2002).

The genera *Proceratophrys* and *Odontophrynus* Reinhardt & Lütken, 1862 are closely related and of uncertain identification (Peixoto & Cruz 1980; Barrio & Barrio 1993). These two taxa were placed in the tribe Odontophrynini by Lynch (1971), but later removed from the family Leptodactylidae Werner, 1896, and placed in Cycloramphidae Bonaparte, 1850 (Frost *et al.* 2006).

Not only do the adult forms of *Odontophrynus* and *Proceratophrys* demonstrate many common features, but their tadpoles also share characteristics related to mouth structure, as well as the form of the snout and the body (Peixoto & Cruz 1980; Brandão & Batista 2000).

The species *Proceratophrys cristiceps* (Müller, 1884), the focus of the present work, was originally described as *Ceratophrys cristiceps* Müller, 1884. They were diagnosed by the author of that description according to their color pattern and the distribution of nodules and tuberculos, as verified by Müller (1884).