



An enigmatic new species of Glassfrog (Amphibia: Anura: Centrolenidae) from the Amazonian Andean slopes of Ecuador

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Abstract

We describe a new species of frog of the family Centrolenidae, *Cochranella amelie* n. sp., from the central Amazonian Andean slopes, collected at the Oglan River, Province of Pastaza, Ecuador. This new species shows a very unusual combination of characters (lavender dorsum in preservative, absence of a humeral spine in adult males, transparent parietal peritoneum, white visceral peritonea, and bulbous liver). The relationships of this new species of Glassfrog are uncertain, and its assignment to *Cochranella* is preliminary.

Key words: *Cochranella amelie*, new species; taxonomy; Oglan River; Pastaza; Ecuador

Resumen

Describimos una nueva especie de rana de la familia Centrolenidae, *Cochranella amelie* n. sp., de los flancos Andinos Amazónicos centrales, colectada en el Río Oglán, Provincia de Pastaza, Ecuador. Esta nueva especie presenta una muy inusual combinación de caracteres (dorso de color lavanda en preservante, ausencia de espina humeral en machos adultos, peritoneo parietal transparente, peritoneos viscerales blancos, e hígado bulboso). Las relaciones de esta nueva especie de Rana de Cristal son inciertas y su asignación a *Cochranella* es preliminar.

Palabras clave: *Cochranella amelie*, nueva especie; taxonomía; Río Oglán; Pastaza; Ecuador

Introduction

The Amazonian Andean slopes of Ecuador hold a remarkably high biological diversity with regard to frogs of the family Centrolenidae. Until 1994, 16 species of Glassfrogs had been reported from that region (Jiménez de la Espada 1872; Goin 1961; Lynch & Duellman 1973; Flores & McDiarmid 1989; Wild 1994). Recent fieldwork and the study of collections have increased the number of species to 22 taxa up to 2006 (Cisneros-Heredia & McDiarmid 2006; Cisneros-Heredia & McDiarmid in press; Guayasamin *et al.* 2006a–b). This number is expected to grow in the near future as some species remain undescribed or unreported (Cisneros-Heredia & McDiarmid 2002–2004, 2006, in press; Cisneros-Heredia *et al.* 2006).

The recently described *Centrolene mariaelenae* was the first Andean non-*Hyalinobatrachium* centrolenid to be reported as having completely transparent parietal peritoneum and white visceral peritonea (Cisneros-