



A new species of *Chiasmocleis* (Anura: Microhylidae) from the Iquitos region, Amazonian Peru, with possible direct development

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Abstract

We describe a new species of microhylid frog of the genus *Chiasmocleis* from the upper Amazon basin of Peru (area of Iquitos, Departamento Loreto). The new species is characterized by small size, distinct reduction of fingers I and IV and the presence of large unpigmented eggs in the oviducts. The latter character is so far unknown in the recognized species of the genus and may indicate the presence of a terrestrial reproductive mode. The generic placement of the new species is discussed.

Key words: Amphibia, Anura, Microhylidae, *Chiasmocleis magnova* new species, Iquitos, Amazonia, Peru

Introduction

Currently, the microhylid frog genus *Chiasmocleis* Méhely comprises 19 recognized species distributed in southern Central America and South America (Frost 2007). Six of them are associated with Amazonian rainforests: *Chiasmocleis anatypes* Walker and Duellman, *C. bassleri* Dunn, *C. hudsoni* Parker, *C. jimi* Caramaschi and Cruz, *C. shudikarensis* Dunn and *C. ventrimaculata* (Andersson). All other recognized South American species in the genus are either distributed in the forests of southeastern Brasil, or are restricted to drier savanna habitats of the Cerrado biome (e.g. Bokermann 1952, Cruz *et al.* 1997, Caramaschi & Cruz 1997, Caramaschi & Pimenta 2003).

In the framework of scientific cooperation between the National Museum, Prague and the Universidad Nacional de la Amazonía Peruana, Iquitos, the senior author conducted two short-termed surveys of herpetofaunal diversity in the surroundings of Iquitos in 2001 and 2002 (Moravec *et al.* 2002 a,b). At this occasion an interesting species of *Chiasmocleis* different from all other known species in the genus was collected. This contribution is aimed at its description.

Material and methods

Collected specimens were fixed and stored in 70 % ethanol. Measurements are given in millimetres (mm) and were taken to the nearest 0.1 mm with an ocular micrometer in a stereomicroscope, except of SVL, which was measured using a digital calliper. Notes on colour in life were taken from field notes and colour images. Vertebral column of holotype was radiographed with a digital dental Plan Meca Intra x-ray. Pectoral girdle anatomy was examined by dissection of the right part of the paratype pectoral area. Phalangeal formulae of paratype