



## A new species of poison frog (Amphibia: Dendrobatidae) from the Andean mountains of Tolima, Colombia

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### Abstract

We describe a new species of poison frog of the genus *Ranitomeya* from the Andean mountains of Tolima, Cordillera Central of Colombia. The new species can be distinguished from all other dendrobatids by its distinctive color pattern in combination with its small size and advertisement call. The maximum adult snout vent length is 17.39–18.91 mm, its dorsal surface is brown, head with a metallic yellow-bronze color, ventral surfaces overall brown dark with or without bluish green spots. This new species is syntopic with *Ranitomeya dorisswansonae*, but readily distinguishable by color pattern and foot morphology.

**Key words:** Dendrobatidae, *Ranitomeya tolimense* sp. n., tadpole, vocalization

### Introduction

Poison frogs (Dendrobatoidea) are widely distributed in the Neotropics, from Nicaragua to Bolivia and from the Pacific coast of South America to Martinique in the French Antilles. Grant *et al.* (2006) referred to 247 species in 16 genera but several more species, not yet described, are known to exist.

In Colombia, there are eight genera of Dendrobatoidea. One of these, *Ranitomeya* (Bauer, 1988), family Dendrobatidae, is equivalent to the Silverstone's (1975) *Dendrobates minutus* group with the removal of the species *steyermarki* and *quinquevittatus* sensu stricto and with the addition of several species described since 1975. Within *Ranitomeya*, Grant *et al.* (2006) recognized a monophyletic radiation equivalent to *Minyobates* sensu Myers (1987) minus *steyermarki*, which they call the *minutus* clade. This clade is found in Central America and Colombian Chocó, and is the sister clade of an exclusively Amazonian group, the *ventrimaculatus* clade (Grant *et al.*, 2006). However, the authors have not studied in detail the Andean (Colombia, Ecuador) species allocated to *Ranitomeya*. Consequently, Grant *et al.*, (2006) suggested that further studies are necessary to the placement of this group; T. Grant (pers. comm.) expects these species conform an Andes clade which may be sister to *Minyobates steyermarki*. These Andean species include *R. abdita* (Myers & Daly, 1976), the only Ecuadorian taxon, *R. bombetes* (Myers & Daly, 1980), *R. opisthomelas* (Silverstone, 1975), *R. viridis* (Myers & Daly, 1976), *R. virolinensis* (Ruiz-Carranza & Ramirez-Pinilla, 1992) and two species, which were initially placed in the genus *Dendrobates*, *R. dorisswansonae* and *R. daleswasoni* (Rueda *et al.*, 2006). The purpose of this paper is to describe a new species of *Ranitomeya* which was found in the Andean mountains of the municipality of Falan, Tolima, eastern flank of the Cordillera Central of Colombia.