



Two new species of *Platymantis* (Anura: Ceratobatrachidae) from the Admiralty Archipelago, Papua New Guinea

STEPHEN J. RICHARDS^{1,4}, ANDREW L. MACK² & CHRISTOPHER C. AUSTIN³

¹Vertebrates Department, South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000, Australia. ²Wildlife Conservation Society, P.O. Box 277, Goroka, EHP, Papua New Guinea. Current address: Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Powdermill Nature Reserve, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, USA. E-mail: macka@carnegiemnh.org

³Department of Biological Sciences and Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University, 119 Foster Hall, Baton Rouge, LA. 70803-3216, USA. E-mail: ccaustin@lsu.edu

⁴Corresponding author. E-mail: richards.steve@saugov.sa.gov.au

Abstract

Two new species of the ceratobatrachid frog genus *Platymantis* are described from the Admiralty Archipelago, Papua New Guinea. *Platymantis admiraltiensis* **sp. nov.** and *P. latro* **sp. nov.** have been confused with *P. gilliardi* Zweifel, 1960 which is known with certainty only from New Britain in the Bismarck Archipelago. *Platymantis admiraltiensis* **sp. nov.** differs from *P. gilliardi* in its much longer legs (TL/SV 0.54–0.60 vs 0.51 in the holotype of *P. gilliardi*), and from all species of the morphologically conservative *P. papuensis* complex by its advertisement call, a long series of slowly-repeated (~ 0.4–1.9/s) yapping notes lasting up to 44 seconds. *Platymantis latro* **sp. nov.** differs from *P. gilliardi* and all other members of the *P. papuensis* complex in having a broad dark stripe laterally on the head and an advertisement call consisting of a single biphasic note with 10–20 short, irregularly spaced pulses followed by one long, musical pulse. Both new species are known only from the Admiralty Archipelago. This study confirms the utility of advertisement call structure for distinguishing among morphologically similar ceratobatrachid taxa.

Key words: Anura, Ceratobatrachidae, *Platymantis*, Papua New Guinea, Admiralty Islands, new species

Introduction

The Admiralty Archipelago is an isolated group of islands about 275 km north of mainland Papua New Guinea. With an area of 181,000 hectares Manus Island dominates the archipelago. Other smaller islands including Los Negros (5,300 hectares), Rambutyo, and dozens of additional tiny islands and atolls make up the island group. All of the islands are low and relatively flat, with the highest peak (Mt Dremsel, on Manus) reaching just 720 m elevation. The herpetofauna of the Admiralty Archipelago is moderately diverse with 43 species currently known from the island group, but frogs make up a small fraction of the fauna with only four native species recorded to date (Allison 1996). Two of these, *Litoria infrafronata* (Günther, 1867) and *L. thesaurensis* (Peters, 1877) are widespread across mainland New Guinea and nearby islands. One species, *Discodelles vogti* (Hediger, 1934) is endemic to the archipelago and another, *Platymantis gilliardi*, was described from the Admiralty Archipelago (paratypes) and from New Britain (holotype) in the Bismarck Archipelago (Zweifel 1960, Allison 1996).

Prior to the description of *Platymantis gilliardi* at least four names had been applied to *Platymantis* from the Admiralty Archipelago. Hediger (1934) reported specimens of *Cornufer* (= *Platymantis*) *guppyi* Boulenger, 1884 from Manus Island, but Allison (1996) and Brown (1997) excluded this species from the Admiralties fauna. Vogt (1912) identified the paratypes of *P. gilliardi* as *Cornufer solomonis* Boulenger, 1884,