



A new species of *Rhinella* (Anura: Bufonidae) from Brazilian Amazon

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Abstract

We describe adults, tadpoles, advertisement calls and provide information about natural history of a new species of toad in the *Rhinella margaritifera* species group from Pará, Brazil. The new species is characterized by medium size, snout pointed in dorsal view, supraorbital and supratympanic crests continuous, both with tubercles, tympanic membrane distinct, bony protusion at angle of jaws, parotoid glands small and not very distinct, lateral row of tubercles present, neural crests of vertebrae absent, skin on dorsal and dorsolateral surfaces with spicules in males and females. This species differs from other described species in the *Rhinella margaritifera* group also in tadpole morphology, acoustic characteristics and reproductive behaviour.

Key words: adult morphology, advertisement call, Central Amazonia, *Rhinella margaritifera* group, tadpole morphology

Introduction

The *Rhinella margaritifera* (= *Bufo margaritifera*/*B. typhonius*) species group, as currently recognized, is a complex with several undescribed species distributed mainly throughout the Amazon Basin (Hoogmoed 1990; Lötters & Köhler 2000; Caramaschi & Niemeyer 2003; Duellman 2005; Fouquet *et al.* 2007). According to Frost (2007) this the group is composed of 14 species [*R. acustirostris* (Spix), *R. alata* (Thomiot), *R. castaneotica* (Caldwell), *R. ceratophrys* (Boulenger), *R. cristinae* (Vélez-Rodriguez & Ruiz-Carranza), *R. dapsilis* (Myers & Carvalho), *R. intermedia* (Günther), *R. iserni* (Jiménez de la Espada), *R. margaritifera* (Laurenti), *R. proboscidea* (Spix), *R. roqueana* (Melin), *R. scitula* (Caramaschi & Niemeyer), *R. sclerocephala* (Mijares-Urritia & Arends), *R. stanlaidi* (Lötters & Köhler)] and three additional species only recently described: *R. hoogmoedi* Caramaschi & Pombal, *Rhinella* sp. 1 and *Rhinella* sp. 2 Fouquet, Gaucher, Blanc & Velez-Rodriguez (in press). Species of the *Rhinella margaritifera* species group are medium-sized bufonid frogs which inhabit the leaf litter and are distributed mainly in northern South America and adjacent Central America (Frost 2007). Fifteen species are found in the Amazon Forest, one in the Atlantic Forest and one in central Brazilian savannas (Caramaschi & Niemeyer 2003; Caramaschi & Pombal 2006; Frost 2007). In spite of these informations, the precise number of species compounding this group is uncertain (see Caramaschi & Pombal 2006; Fouquet *et al.* in press).

The cryptically coloured species in the *Rhinella margaritifera* species group show a wide range of calls and tadpoles morphology, which can be useful to discriminate different species (APL, unpubl. data). One of major problem in describing new species of this group is that tadpoles have only been described for *R. margaritifera* (Duellman 1978), *R. castaneotica* (Caldwell 1991), *R. proboscidea* (Menin *et al.* 2006) and *R. scitula*