Two additional treefrogs of the *Boophis ulftunni* species group (Anura: Mantellidae) discovered in rainforests of northern and south-eastern Madagascar

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Abstract

We describe two new frog species of the endemic Malagasy-Comoroan genus *Boophis*. One species, described as *Boophis baetkei* sp. n., originates from Forêt d’Ambre Special Reserve in northernmost Madagascar, whereas *Boophis liliana* sp. n. was discovered near Ifanadiana and Ranomafana in the Southern Central East of the island. Both new species have very deep genetic divergences in the 16S rRNA gene that complicate the assessment of their phylogenetic affinities but are here tentatively assigned to the recently defined *Boophis ulftunni* species group based on phenetic similarity and preliminary results of analyses of other genes. All three species known in this group share a green dorsum with translucent shade in life, a pigmented venter and, most characteristic, pink markings in life and in preservative. *Boophis liliana* sp. n. is the smallest species of *Boophis* known so far (SVL of adult male 18.3 mm, ovigerous female 20.0 mm). Phylogenetic relationships, distribution and threat status of the new species are discussed.

Key words: Amphibia, Anura, Mantellidae, *Boophis ulftunni* group, new species, phylogeny, Madagascar

Introduction

Malagasy frogs of the genus *Boophis* Tschudi constitute a species-rich endemic radiation, occurring in almost all types of habitats known on the island. The genus has recently been partitioned in the two subgenera *Boophis* and *Sahona* (Glaw & Vences 2006). Within the subgenus *Boophis*, these authors defined eight species groups, among them six groups of predominantly green-coloured species: the *Boophis albipunctatus* group, *B. luteus* group, *B. mandraka* group and *B. rappioides* group, which all have a green dorsal ground colour with a translucent shade in life, a pigmented venter and, most characteristic, pink markings in life and in preservative. *Boophis liliana* sp. n. is the smallest species of *Boophis* known so far (SVL of adult male 18.3 mm, ovigerous female 20.0 mm). Phylogenetic relationships, distribution and threat status of the new species are discussed.