



## Revision of the *Ranitomeya fantastica* species complex with description of two new species from Central Peru (Anura: Dendrobatidae)

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### Abstract

We describe two new species of poison frogs (genus *Ranitomeya*) from the central Rio Huallaga drainage and adjacent Cordillera Azul in central Peru. Both species were previously considered to be members of *Ranitomeya fantastica*, a species described from the town of Yurimaguas, Peru. Extensive sampling of putative *R. fantastica* (including near-topotypic material) throughout central Peru, and the resulting morphological and phylogenetic analysis has led us to conclude that *R. fantastica* sensu lato is a complex of three closely related species rather than a single, widely distributed species. The first of these species occurs near the type locality of *R. fantastica* but bears significant dissimilarity to the original type series and forms a monophyletic clade that is distributed throughout an expansive lowland zone between Rio Huallaga and Rio Ucayali. This species is diagnosable by its brilliant red head and advertisement call differences. The second new species has long been considered a color morph of *R. fantastica*, although our analysis shows that it is genetically distinct from even adjacent populations of *R. fantastica*. This species is restricted to the Huallaga Canyon near Chazuta and is primarily diagnosed on the basis of nucleotide sequences, although it does possess additional morphological and vocal characteristics which are distinct from *R. fantastica*.

**Key words:** *benedicta*, *Dendrobates*, Dendrobatidae, *fantastica*, *Ranitomeya*, *summersi*

### Resumen

Se describe dos especies nuevas de ranas venenosas (género *Ranitomeya*) de la cuenca central del Río Huallaga y la Cordillera Azul colindante en el centro del Perú. Ambas especies eran previamente consideradas miembros de *Ranitomeya fantastica*, una especie descrita del pueblo de Yurimaguas, Perú. El muestreo extensivo de *R. fantastica* putativo (incluso cerca a la localidad típica) por todo el centro del Perú, y los análisis morfológicos y filogenéticas, los resultados sugiere que *R. fantastica* sensu lato es un complejo de tres especies cercanamente emparentadas más que una sola especie ampliamente distribuido. La primera de esas especies ocurre cerca a la localidad típica de *R. fantastica* pero tiene una desemejanza significativa a la serie típica original y forma un clado monofilético que está distribuido por una zona de selva baja entre Río Huallaga y Río Ucayali. Esta especie se distingue por su cabeza rojo brillante y diferencias en su canto. La segunda especie ha sido considerada un morpho de *R. fantastica*. Esta especie está restringido al cañón Huallaga cerca Chazuta y se distingue ante todo por su secuencias nucleótidos, aunque tiene características morfológicos y vocales adicionales que son distintos de *R. fantastica*.