



A new species of *Leptodactylus* Fitzinger (Anura, Leptodactylidae) from Serra do Brigadeiro, State of Minas Gerais, Southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Leptodactylus* belonging to the *L. fuscus* species group, and related to the *L. mystaceus* complex, is described from the Lagoa das Bromélias (20°53'S, 42°31'W; 1,227 m above sea level), Parque Estadual da Serra do Brigadeiro, Municipality of Ervália, State of Minas Gerais, Southeastern Brazil. *Leptodactylus cupreus* **sp. nov.** is characterized by the large size for the group (SVL 50.1–55.1 mm in males) and color pattern. The new species has a non-pulsed advertisement call, with call rate about 12 calls/s and a dominant frequency between 2,800 and 3,058 Hz.

Key words: Amphibia, *Leptodactylus cupreus* **sp. nov.**, advertisement call, taxonomy

Introduction

A recent molecular phylogeny of amphibians (Frost *et al.* 2006) suggested that the genus *Leptodactylus* Fitzinger includes the former genera *Adenomera* Steindachner, *Lithodytes* Fitzinger, and *Vanzolinius* Heyer (previously synonymized with *Leptodactylus* by De Sá *et al.*, 2005), consisting of a total of 83 species (81 species referred in Frost 2007 plus two new species recently described by Giaretta & Costa 2007 and Berneck *et al.* 2008). These species have been traditionally clustered in morphological groups (*e.g.*, Heyer 1970, *L. melanotus* group; Heyer 1973, *L. marmoratus* group; Heyer 1978, *L. fuscus* group; Heyer 1979, 2005, *L. pentadactylus* group; Heyer 1994, *L. podicipinus*-*L. wagneri* group), without a phylogenetic framework.

The *Leptodactylus fuscus* species group is the largest one in terms of the number of species. Members of the *L. fuscus* group are small to moderate sized frogs; the toes lack fringe or web, the head is of normal width proportions, and the males lack thumb spines (Heyer 1978). Within this group, an assemblage of morphologically similar species, defined by having two distinct dorsolateral folds (at least indicated by color pattern), a distinct light lip stripe, a distinct longitudinal light stripe on the posterior surface of the thighs, posterior surface of tarsus smooth (or with distinct, non-obvious light tubercles), and sole of foot with prominent light tubercles has been identified as the “*L. mystaceus* complex” (Heyer *et al.* 1996); this assemblage includes *L. mystaceus* (Spix), *L. elenae* Heyer, *L. notoaktites* Heyer, *L. spixi* Heyer, and *L. didymus* Heyer, García-Lopez & Cardoso. Herein, a new species clearly related to the *L. mystaceus* morphological assemblage is described from the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil.