



## New coastal and insular species of the bromeligenous *Scinax perpusillus* group, from the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Anura, Hylidae)

HELIO RICARDO DA SILVA<sup>1</sup> & RICARDO ALVES- SILVA<sup>2</sup>

Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Instituto de Biologia – Laboratório de Herpetologia, Caixa Postal 74524 Seropédica, RJ 23851-970 – Brazil. E-mail: <sup>1</sup>heliorasilva@gmail.com; <sup>2</sup>biologiasilva@gmail.com  
Corresponding author

### Abstract

We describe a new bromeligenous species of *Scinax* from the *perpusillus* group from the Atlantic Forest of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The new species is described from three different localities, two on the continent (Municipality of Mangaratiba), and the other on an island, Gipóia (Municipality of Angra dos Reis). The new species may be easily diagnosed from all other known species in the group by the color pattern of the tadpole, by the prominent medial process between the nostrils in adults. While in all the other species the tadpole has a uniform dark brown coloration, in the new species tadpoles is similarly dark brown, but also has a yellow stripe on the head between the nostrils and the eyes.

**Key words:** Atlantic forest; Southeastern Brazil; Bromeliad; Tadpole; Reproduction; *Scinax tupinamba*, new species

### Introduction

If progress in understanding biological diversity—here considering simply an estimate of the number of species—could be measured with reference to accurately and confidently associating scientific names to biological samples (specimens) taken from different localities, we would have serious uncertainty regarding the actual knowledge of the diversity of anuran amphibian in Brazil as demonstrated by works like Wynn and Heyer (2001), Heyer and Reid (2003), and Camargo *et al.* (2006). An example, not yet studied by similar taxonomic investigation is the group of frogs referred to as the *Scinax perpusillus* group. It has become apparent that some of the known populations associated with species in this group should actually be recognized as full distinct species. However, in general the “traditional” approach has been to identify these populations as *Scinax perpusillus* or *S. perpusillus* group (Heyer *et al.* 1990; Pombal and Gordo 2004; Oliveira & Navas 2005; Zaher *et al.* 2005; Carvalho-e-Silva *et al.* 2008). As a consequence, *Scinax perpusillus* has been considered the most widespread species in the group, a likely erroneous conclusion (see maps for this species on The Global Amphibian Assessment site: <http://www.globalamphibians.org>).

The first species of this group of bromeliad-dependent frogs (bromeligenous *sensu* Peixoto 1995) to be described was *Hyla perpusilla*, described by Lutz and Lutz, 1939. Later, in a study of the distribution of Brazilian tree frogs, Lutz (1968) suggested sub-specific status for the geographic variants within “*Hyla perpusilla*,” despite observed variation. She assumed that a single species, presenting variant forms, would better represent the observed diversity. The same opinion was defended by her (Lutz 1973) in later work. Considerable progress in understanding the taxonomy of this group was made when Peixoto (1987; 1988a, b; 2002) presented a series of papers dealing with the definition of a group he referred to as “the *perpusillus* group” of which he described some new species. Detailed study of the taxonomy of this group was later presented by