



Rediscovery, resurrection and redescription of *Rhinella leptoscelis* (Boulenger, 1912) (Anura: Bufonidae)

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Abstract

We resurrect *Rhinella leptoscelis* (Anura: Bufonidae) from the synonymy of *R. veraguensis* and redescribe it on the basis of the holotype, and recently collected specimens from Peru and Bolivia. *Rhinella leptoscelis* is well distinguished from all other species of the *R. veraguensis* group by its flat head with well developed orbitotympanic and postorbital crests, distinct tympanum, large parotoid glands, spiny tubercles on dorsal surfaces, long and slender extremities, dorsolateral row of conical, enlarged and elevated tubercles, webbing absent on fingers, basal and serrated webbing between toes, and first finger longer than second. This species is known from the humid forests of the Amazonian versant of the Andes from central Bolivia to southern Peru.

Key words: Amazon, Andes, Peru, Bolivia, *Rhinella veraguensis* group, *Rhinella margaritifera* group, taxonomy

Introduction

The taxonomic status of the toad *Rhinella leptoscelis* (Boulenger, 1912) has remained uncertain. This species, described on the basis of a single specimen from the Andean slopes of southern Peru, has been considered either as a junior synonym of *R. veraguensis* (Schmidt, 1857) (Vellard 1959; Hoogmoed 1990) or as a valid species (Gallardo 1961; Cei 1968, 1972; Gorham 1974; Hoogmoed 1985; Duellman and Schulte 1992). Vellard (1959) considered *R. ockendeni* (Boulenger, 1902) and *R. leptoscelis* very similar, but recommended to gather more information to solve the taxonomic status of both species. Savage (1969) synonymized *R. ockendeni* under *R. veraguensis*. Hoogmoed (1990) placed *R. leptoscelis* in the synonymy of *R. veraguensis*, and attributed some differences between the single known specimen of *R. leptoscelis*, a female, and the lectotypes of *R. veraguensis*, all adult males, to sexual dimorphism. He furthermore removed *R. veraguensis* and all its junior synonyms from the *R. typhonius* species group and placed it in the *R. veraguensis* group. Duellman and Schulte (1992) did not follow this position and treated *R. leptoscelis* as a valid species without further discussion. But subsequent taxonomic studies of toads assigned to this group did not consider *R. leptoscelis* as a valid species (Harvey and Smith 1993, 1994; Lehr *et al.* 2001, 2005; Padial *et al.* 2006; Pramuk 2006; Chaparro *et al.* 2007; see account by Frost 2009).

Our comparisons of *Rhinella leptoscelis* with all type specimens of the *R. veraguensis* and *R. margaritifera* groups inhabiting the Andean slopes of Southern Peru and Bolivia (see De la Riva *et al.* 2000;