



## A new species of *Noblella* (Amphibia: Strabomantidae) from the western slopes of the Andes of Ecuador

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### Abstract

We describe a new species of *Noblella* from the western slope of the Ecuadorian Andes. The new taxon is distinguished from all other species in the genus by lacking dorsal marks (i.e., interorbital bar, scapular and sacral chevrons) and by having a bright orange venter. The new species and *Noblella heyeri* are the only species of *Noblella* reported in the Pacific Andean versant. We provide an osteological description of the new species and a key for the species in *Noblella*.

**Key words:** Andes, Ecuador, *Noblella*, osteology, *Phyllonastes*, Strabomantidae

### Introduction

*Noblella* is a small genus endemic to South America. The genus occurs at elevations of 1250–3450 m in humid habitats in the Andes from Ecuador to central Bolivia, and one species occurs in the Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador, Peru, and extreme western Brazil (Duellman & Lehr in press; this work). Currently, the genus contains nine species: *N. carrascoicola* (De la Riva & Köhler 1998), *N. duellmani* (Lehr, Aguilar & Lundberg 2004), *N. heyeri* (Lynch 1986), *N. lochites* (Lynch 1976), *N. lynchi* (Duellman 1991), *N. myrmecoides* (Lynch 1976), *N. peruviana* (Noble 1921), *N. pygmaea* Lehr and Catenazzi (2009), and *N. ritarasquinae* (Köhler 2000). Until recently, these frogs were in the genus *Phyllonastes*, a name proposed by Heyer (1977) that was placed in the synonymy of *Noblella* by De la Riva *et al.* (2008).

Examination of preserved material from Río Guajalito, a locality on the western slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes, revealed the presence of an undescribed species of *Noblella*. With this discovery, there are two species of *Noblella* on the Pacific slopes of the Andes, *N. heyeri* and the new species described below. Also, in this work, we provide an osteological description of the new species and a key to species in *Noblella*.

### Materials and methods

**Terminology.** Generic and family names are according to the taxonomy proposed by De la Riva *et al.* (2008) and Hedges *et al.* (2008), respectively. Specimens examined are listed in Appendix I and institutional acronyms are those of Frost (2009).

**Morphology.** Morphological measurements were taken with digital calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm, as described by Guayasamin (2004), except for those traits described in parenthesis, and are as follow: (1) snout-vent length (SVL); (2) tibia length; (3) foot length; (4) head length; (5) head width; (6) interorbital distance; (7) upper eyelid width; (8) internarial distance; (9) eye-nostril distance; (10) snout-eye distance; (11) eye diameter; (12) tympanum diameter; (13) eye-tympanum distance; (14) forearm length; (15) hand length; (16)