



Two new *Pristimantis* (Anura: Terrarana: Strabomantidae) from the Sierra de Perijá, Venezuela

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Abstract

Two new species of *Pristimantis* are described from Cerro Las Antenas, on the Venezuelan versant of the Sierra de Perijá, a region that is being rapidly destroyed by extensive cultivation and civil unrest. The first species (*P. lassocalcai* **sp. nov.**) has dirty-white spots surrounded by black in the groin and on the hidden surfaces of the hind limbs—a characteristic shared by members of the "*lentiginosus*" group (Rivero 1982) from the Cordillera de Mérida—and marbled to reticulated venter. The second species (*P. rivasi* **sp. nov.**) is currently the largest member of the genus known from Perijá, and presents conspicuous cranial crests. The two new species are assigned to the *P. unistrigatus* species group.

Key words: *Eleutherodactylus*, *Pristimantis*, new species, Sierra de Perijá, Venezuela, Colombia

Resumen

Se describen dos nuevos *Pristimantis* del Cerro Las Antenas, en la vertiente venezolana de la Sierra de Perijá, una región amenazada por la incontrolada expansión agrícola y problemas de orden público. La primera especie (*P. lassocalcai* **sp. nov.**) podría estar relacionada con las del complejo "*lentiginosus*" de Rivero (1982) de la Cordillera de Mérida, ya que las especies de este grupo comparten la presencia de manchas claras rodeadas de negro en la región inguinal y en las superficies ocultas de las extremidades posteriores, y por su vientre jaspeado a reticulado. La segunda especie (*P. rivasi* **sp. nov.**) es la de mayor tamaño de Perijá por el momento, y muestra crestas craneales notables. Las dos especies nuevas son asignadas al grupo de especies *P. unistrigatus*.

Introduction

Recently, Heinicke *et al.* (2007) split the long established genus *Eleutherodactylus*, formerly in the family Leptodactylidae (Lynch 1971, 1981; Frost 1985; Duellman 1993; Barrio Amoros 1998), and subsequently placed in the family Brachycephalidae by Frost *et al.* (2006), into three major genera: *Eleutherodactylus* for the Caribbean species, *Craugastor* for mainly Central American species, and *Pristimantis* for almost all South American species. Hedges *et al.* (2008) offered a more comprehensive panorama of the so-called "eleutherodactylines" and erected the new taxon Terrarana for four families (Brachycephalidae, Craugastoridae, Eleutherodactylidae, Strabomantidae). Most of the former South American members of *Eleutherodactylus* are now placed tentatively in the genus *Pristimantis*, within Strabomantidae. We follow the classification proposed by Hedges *et al.* (2008).

The Sierra de Perijá is the northernmost spur of the Andean range, and forms a natural boundary between Colombia and Venezuela. The amphibian fauna of this region has been only superficially explored. Thirty one