



The identification of *Rana ocellata* Linnaeus, 1758. Nomenclatural impact on the species currently known as *Leptodactylus ocellatus* (Leptodactylidae) and *Osteopilus brunneus* (Gosse, 1851) (Hylidae)

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Abstract

The usage of the name *Rana ocellata* Linnaeus, 1758, is plagued by misidentifications and misinterpretations. After an exhaustive bibliographic review, we conclude that the Linnaeus 1758 name refers to *Osteopilus brunneus* (Gosse, 1851) from Jamaica, while the taxon currently known as *Leptodactylus ocellatus* corresponds to *Rana latrans* Steffen, 1815. Herein, we designate and provide descriptions of the neotypes of *Leptodactylus latrans* (Steffen, 1815), revalidated, new combination, and *Osteopilus ocellatus* (Linnaeus, 1758), new combination, as a senior synonym of *Osteopilus brunneus* (Gosse, 1851).

Key words: Nomenclature, *Leptodactylus*, *Rana*, *Osteopilus*, neotypes

“... die Quelle das reinste Wasser liefert, und das von ihr abgeleitete Wasser oft recht trübe ist...”
R. A. Philippi, 1894.

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Introduction

It is generally accepted that January 1st, 1758 set the official birth of zoological nomenclature, taking as the starting point the publication of the tenth edition of Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae* [International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature, 1999 (ICZN), Article 3]. That event had significant consequences; the positive ones are widely known, but at the same time it veiled a great amount of valuable sources of information available at the time. Although 250 years have elapsed, misconceptions still persist due to overlooking the pre-Linnean contributions, with the exception of Clerck (1757).

Regarding what we currently know as Anurans, Linnaeus (1758) included 17 species of which only two (*Rana typhonia* and *Rana variegata*) appear to be original descriptions. Linnaeus' names (1758) are frequently followed by a brief description, with an ambiguous geographic distribution, and footnotes with some curious facts (such as the belief that the males nuptial pads were the frog penis or that the secretions of