



Revalidation and redescription of *Elachistocleis cesarii* (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920) (Anura: Microhylidae)

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Abstract

Elachistocleis cesarii (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920), new combination, is revalidated and redescribed based on preserved specimens (syntype series) collected in the state of São Paulo. Furthermore, based on recently collected specimens, we increase the distribution of the species to the states of Minas Gerais and Goiás, Brazil. This species is found in open areas calling during the rainy season (from September to February for populations of the state of São Paulo). The advertisement call is described and some basic natural history data are provided. It distinguishes from all other species of the genus by the combination of the following characters: spotted belly, dominant frequency of the advertisement calls about 3.5 kHz, tympanum concealed, and presence of postcommisural glands. The advertisement call of *Elachistocleis piauiensis*, a similar species with spotted belly from the Caatinga Biome, was also described to compare it with the advertisement call of *E. cesarii*.

Key words: Amphibia; Anura; Microhylidae; Gastrophryninae; *Elachistocleis cesarii*

Introduction

Elachistocleis Parker, 1927 is a genus widespread distributed in South America and currently is composed by six species, which certainly needs taxonomic review. Just for an example, Nelson (1973) reported 12 different calls from 12 different populations under the name *Elachistocleis ovalis* (Schneider, 1799) and *Elachistocleis bicolor* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838), and suggested that these populations could represent distinct taxa. In a recent paper, Lavilla *et al.* (2003) clarified many questions about the *Elachistocleis ovalis* - *E. bicolor* controversy, but many other aspects remain unclear. We can recognize two groups among the species of the genus *Elachistocleis*: the species with spotted belly [*E. surinamensis* (Daudin, 1802), *E. piauiensis* Caramaschi & Jim, 1983, *E. skotogaster* Lavilla, Vaira & Ferrari, 2003, and *E. erytrogaster* Kwet & Di-Bernardo, 1998] and those with immaculate belly (*E. bicolor* and *E. ovalis*).

In the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Goiás, from southeastern to central Brazil, there is one morphotype of *Elachistocleis* with spotted belly that does not match with the descriptions of the other species, but it is related to the former description of *Engystoma ovale cesarii* (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920). Therefore, we here redescribe and revalidate this species comparing it with all other species of the genus. In addition, we describe the advertisement call of *Elachistocleis piauiensis*, a similar species from the Caatinga Biome.