



A new species of *Rhinatrema* Duméril & Bibron (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Rhinatrematidae) from Amazonas, Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of rhinatrematid caecilian, *Rhinatrema ron* **sp. nov.**, is described based on a single specimen from the state of Amazonas in Brazil. The new species differs from other *Rhinatrema* in several features, including its larger size, different colouration, and distinctively plicate oral mucosa.

Key words: Brazil, caecilians, French Guiana, Guiana Shield, herpetology, South America, systematics, taxonomy

Introduction

The Neotropical caecilian family Rhinatrematidae Nussbaum, 1977 comprises the two genera *Rhinatrema* Duméril and Bibron, 1841 and *Epicrionops* Boulenger, 1883. As currently conceived (Taylor, 1968; Nussbaum, 1977; Wilkinson and Nussbaum, 2006) *Rhinatrema* are distinguished from *Epicrionops* by their having much shorter tails, a more transverse or circular as opposed to a longitudinal vent, and more elongate maxillopalatine and dentary teeth. A majority of *Epicrionops* species also attain greater lengths than do *Rhinatrema*. The caecilian collection of the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de Sao Paulo (MZUSP), includes a large rhinatrematid from the Brazilian Amazon, MZUSP 60016, previously identified as *E. lativittatus* Taylor, 1968, a species known otherwise only from “Eastern Peru”. The colouration and size of MZUSP 60016 immediately suggest comparison with *E. marmoratus* Taylor, 1968, a species reported only from the western slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes. However, closer examination reveals a very short tail, far shorter than for any *Epicrionops*, a vent that is barely longitudinal, and some maxillary and dentary teeth that are substantially enlarged, all suggesting greater affinity with *Rhinatrema* than with *Epicrionops*. Comparison of MZUSP 60016 with the species of *Rhinatrema*, including all relevant type material, indicates that the specimen represents a previously unrecognised species that we describe here.

Material and methods

Measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1 mm using a vernier caliper, except total length and circumference, which were measured to the nearest 1 mm using a ruler and piece of thread. Sex was determined by examining gonads. Number of vertebrae was determined from radiographs. Tooth counts are estimates (see Gower et al., 2010). Following Kamei et al. (2009), abbreviations used for anatomical features and ratios of measures are: AG = annular groove; CM = corner of the mouth; C1 = first collar; C2 = second collar; IM = inner mandibular (= ‘splenial’) tooth; NG1 = first nuchal groove (between head and collars); NG2 = second nuchal groove (between first and second collars); NG3 = third nuchal groove (between collars and anteriormost annulus); ST = snout tip; TG = transverse groove (on dorsal surface of collar); TL = total length; L/H = TL divided by head length (the latter = distance between ST and NG1 directly behind CM); L/W = TL divided by midbody width.