



The nomenclatural status of *Rana gaimardii* Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1828, and *Hyla quoyi* Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1828 (Anura, Hylidae)

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Abstract

The nomenclatural status of *Rana gaimardii* Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1828, and *Hyla quoyi* Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1828 (Anura, Hylidae) are discussed. *Rana gaimardii* and its combination *Hyla gaimardi*, a *nomen oblitum* under Article 23.9.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, may be removed from the synonymy of *Hypsiboas boans* (Linnaeus, 1758) and included in the synonymy of *Hypsiboas faber* (Wied-Neuwied, 1821) to improve the geographic distribution of both species. *Hyla quoyi* Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1828, considered by Frost (2010) as *incertae sedis* in the Hylinae and as a *nomen oblitum* under the Article 23.9.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, if available would replace the well established name *Hypsiboas prasinus* (Burmeister, 1856); therefore, to improve the nomenclatural status of both species, *Hyla quoyi* must be included in the synonymy of *H. prasinus* as a *nomen oblitum*. *Hypsiboas prasinus* is a *nomen protectum* relative to *Hyla quoyi*, a *nomen oblitum*.

Key words: Amphibia, Hylinae, *Hypsiboas boans*, *Hypsiboas faber*, *Hypsiboas prasinus*, Taxonomy

Some early works, although popular in its times, inexplicably become forgotten. This was the case of the “*Dictionnaire Classique d’Histoire Naturelle*”, published under the directions of Jean Baptiste Geneviève Marcellin Bory de Saint-Vincent (1778–1846) in 16 volumes appearing between 1822 and 1830, plus an Atlas with 160 plates published in 1831. Under the heading “RAINE ou RAINETTE”, authored by Bory de Saint-Vincent and issued in the 14th volume (1828), three new names were proposed: “RAINETTE DE LESUER, *Hyla lesueurii*, N. (V. planch. de ce Diction.)”, “RAINETTE DE GAIMARD, *Rana Gaimardii*, Nob. (V. planches de ce Dictionnaire)”, and “RAINETTE DE QUOY, *Hyla Quoyi*, N. (V. pl. de ce Dictionn.)”. In addition, two others names are attributed to other authors, “RAINETTE A FLANCS RAYÉS, *Rana lateralis*, Bosc, Catesby, *Carol. T II*, pl. 71.” [currently *Hyla cinerea* (Schneider, 1799), according to Frost 2010] and “LA RAINETTE VERTE OU COMMUNE, L., Gmel., ... Röesel ...; *Ranunculus viridis* des anciens naturalistes. ... *Hyla communis*, N.; *Rana arborea*” [currently *Hyla arborea* (Linnaeus, 1758); Frost 2010]; there is also a reference to the “GRENOUILLE A TAPIRES, *Hyla tinctoria* de Daudin [currently *Dendrobates tinctorius* (Cuvier, 1797); Frost 2010]. *Hyla lesueurii* (called “*Hyla Sueurii*. Desmarest.” in the caption of the respective plate and “*Hyla Sueurii*, Bory.” in the caption of plate CXXIV [124] of the Atlas) was described based on a specimen currently unknown from “Havane” (Cuba); recently Shea (2001) discussed this taxon and considered it a *nomen oblitum*, favoring its junior objective homonym *Hyla lesueurii* Duméril & Bibron, 1841 and its junior subjective synonym *Osteopilus septentrionalis* (Duméril & Bibron, 1841) as *nomina protecta*.

Rana gaimardii, also spelled “*Hyla gaimardi*. Bory.” in the caption of the respective plate in the 14th volume (1828) and “*Hyla Gaimardi*. Bory.” in the plate CXXV [125] of the Atlas (1831) (Fig. 1), was described by Bory de Saint-Vincent (1828) as the larger tree frog known to him and, in free translation from French, “with body and head having about four inches [110 mm]. Head approximately triangular, more obtuse on angles, while the body tapered regularly to the vent; the eyes are very salient; all digits, with apical discs very developed, are united by membranes. The main color of the upper surfaces is light brown which fades in