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 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, inexplicibly 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 ancients 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...