



A new tree frog of the genus *Rhacophorus* (Anura: Rhacophoridae) from southern Vietnam

JODI J. L. ROWLEY^{1,5}, LE² THI THUY DUONG, TRAN^{2,3} THI ANH DAO,
BRYAN L. STUART⁴ & HOANG² DUC HUY

¹Australian Museum, 6 College St, Sydney, NSW, 2010, Australia

²Faculty of Biology, University of Science, 227 Nguyen Van Cu, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

³Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Adenauerallee 160, D-53113 Bonn, Germany

⁴North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601, USA

⁵Corresponding author. E-mail: Jodi.Rowley@austmus.gov.au

Abstract

We describe a new species of rhacophorid frog from the Langbian Plateau in southern Vietnam. *Rhacophorus vampyrus* **sp. nov.** is distinguished from its congeners by a combination of: a pale tan to brick red dorsum; white throat, chest and belly; black flanks and anterior and posterior surface of thighs; grey to black webbing between fingers and toes; reduced finger webbing; and pointed projection at tibiotarsal articulation. At present, the new species is known from montane evergreen forest between 1470–2004 m elevation. *Rhacophorus vampyrus* **sp. nov.** is a phytotelm breeder, depositing eggs in foam nests in small tree-holes.

Key words: Anura, Rhacophoridae, Southeast Asia, Vietnam

Introduction

The family Rhacophoridae contains approximately 320 species of frog, distributed throughout subsaharan Africa, China, Southeast Asia, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, and the Greater Sunda Islands (Frost 2010). Most species within the family are arboreal, adapted for life in the trees by having intercalary elements between the terminal and penultimate phalanges, expanded digit disks, and, often, extensive webbing on the hands and feet (Duellman & Trueb 1986).

The genus *Rhacophorus* (Kuhl & Van Hasselt 1822) contains approximately 80 species distributed throughout Asia (Frost 2010). The true diversity of the genus remains unknown, with over a quarter of *Rhacophorus* species described in the last decade (Frost 2010). This continued species discovery is a result of both the taxonomic partitioning of species previously hidden within more widespread species complexes (eg. Ohler & Delorme 2006; Chan & Grismer 2010), and the discovery of novel species as a result of recent herpetological surveys (eg. Dehling & Grafe 2008; Matsui & Panha 2006; Orlov *et al.* 2010).

To date, 24 species of *Rhacophorus* have been recorded from mainland Southeast Asia, over one-third of which were described in the last decade (Frost 2010). During recent field work in the Langbian Plateau, in southern Vietnam, we discovered a medium-sized species of *Rhacophorus* that differs morphologically from all mainland Southeast Asian members of the genus. We describe this species as new.

Material and methods

Specimens were deposited at the Australian Museum (AMS), the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCSM), the University of Science, Ho Chi Minh City (UNS) and the Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK). Some specimens currently at the AMS will be deposited at the UNS and have been cross-cat-