



## A new frog of the genus *Aromobates* (Anura, Dendrobatidae) from Sierra de Perijá, Venezuela

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### Abstract

A new species of diurnal frog of the genus *Aromobates* is described from the Sierra de Perijá in the Andes of western Venezuela. The new species is the first dendrobatid reported from this mountain range, though many other congeners are known from the Cordillera de Mérida, also in the Venezuelan Andes. It can be readily distinguished from all congeners by the unique combination of the following characters: dorsal skin granulate, paired and protuberant dorsal digital scutes, finger I shorter than finger II, fringes absent on fingers I and IV, present and conspicuous on all toes, toe webbing basal, dorsolateral stripe present, oblique lateral stripe diffuse, ventrolateral stripe absent. With this new species the number of *Aromobates* species from Venezuela increases to 13.

**Key words:** Amphibia, *Aromobates*, new species, Zulia

### Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de rana diurna del género *Aromobates* de la Sierra de Perijá en el occidente de Venezuela. La nueva especie es el primer dendrobátido en ser registrado para este sistema montañoso, aunque muchas otras especies se conocen de la Cordillera de Mérida, en los Andes venezolanos. Esta puede ser diferenciada fácilmente de todos sus congéneres por la combinación única de los siguientes caracteres: piel dorsal granulada, par de escudos digitales protuberantes, dedo I de la mano más corto que dedo II, rebordes cutáneos ausentes en dedos de la mano I y IV, presentes en todos los dedos de los pies, membrana pedal basal, línea dorsolateral presente, lateral oblicua difusa y ventrolateral ausente. Con esta nueva especie el número de *Aromobates* en Venezuela asciende a 13.

### Introduction

In a major revision of dendrobatid frogs, Grant *et al.* (2006) redefined the genus *Aromobates* to include *Nephelobates* La Marca, 1994, and transferred it to the new family Aromobatidae. Santos *et al.* (2009) did not recognize the family Aromobatidae, but considered it a subfamily of Dendrobatidae, maintaining *Aromobates* as defined by Grant *et al.* (2006). Currently, the Andean genus *Aromobates* is composed of 12 species, all endemic to Venezuela and distributed throughout the Cordillera de Mérida and the Tamá Massif (Trujillo, Mérida, and Táchira states).

The Sierra de Perijá is the northernmost spur of the Andean range and forms a natural boundary between Venezuela and Colombia. This region has been explored only superficially and its fauna is still poorly known. Since 2005 staff of the Museo de Historia Natural La Salle and the Museo de Biología de La Universidad del Zulia have systematically inventoried the herpetofauna of several localities in the Venezuelan versant of this mountain system, which has significantly increased the number of amphibians and reptiles known from this region (Barrio-Amorós *et al.* 2007, 2010a, Infante *et al.* 2006a, 2006b, Infante-Rivero *et al.* 2008, 2009, Rojas-Runjaic & Infante 2006, 2008,