



A new bromeligenous species of the *Scinax perpusillus* group from the hills of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Anura, Hylidae)

HELIO RICARDO DA SILVA¹ & RICARDO ALVES-SILVA^{1,2}

¹Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Instituto de Biologia, Departamento de Biologia Animal – Laboratório de Herpetologia, Caixa Postal 74524, Seropédica, Rio de Janeiro – 23851-970 – Brazil.

E-mail: heliorsilva@gmail.com, biologiaricardo@gmail.com

²Programa de Pós-Graduação em Biologia Animal – Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro

Abstract

A new species, *Scinax insperatus* **sp. nov.**, of the *S. perpusillus* group is described based on specimens collected in the Municipality of Miguel Pereira, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (22° 13' 14.6" S and 43° 26' 02.1" W). The new species is easily distinguishable from all other species of the *S. perpusillus* group, except *Scinax belloni* Faivovich, Gasparini, & Haddad, 2010, by lacking yellow markings in the inguinal region and hidden surfaces of limbs. From *Scinax belloni*, the new species differs by having dark, metallic-beige colored tubercles on the dorsal surfaces; *S. belloni* lacks any markings on dorsum, hind limbs, and hidden surfaces, and by lacking inguinal glands. In addition, the tadpoles of the new species are unique among those known for the group in having fins with yellow colored spots in later stages of development.

Key words: Atlantic forest, Bromeliad, reproductive behavior, Southeastern Brazil, Tadpole

Introduction

Species in the *Scinax perpusillus* group are considered to form a monophyletic group, sister to the *Scinax catharine* group, based on a few behavioral characters, including egg deposition and tadpole development in bromeliads, and absence or extreme reduction of webbing between Toes II and III (Faivovich 2002). Although its monophyly remains to be rigorously tested, this group definition (Peixoto 1987) has been used to assign new species to it. Currently, 11 species are recognized to belong to the group (Faivovich *et al.* 2010), occurring all along the Atlantic Forest from the State of Espírito Santo, the group's northernmost distribution, to Santa Catarina, in southern Brazil (Alves-Silva & Silva 2009).

Most species in the *Scinax perpusillus* group are known only from their type localities and knowledge of their distribution is tentative (IUCN 2010). In some cases, distributional information maybe overstated, since for most of the ranges represented there are no voucher specimens (IUCN 2010). In addition, newly described species for the group (Silva & Alves-Silva 2008) shed new light on the actual distribution of some of these taxa. Herein, we describe a new species belonging to the *Scinax perpusillus* species group from the northwest hilly regions of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was discovered accidentally while attempting to more precisely determine the distributional limits of *Scinax v-signatus* (Lutz, 1968). We were surveying along the roads that cross the Serra dos Órgãos, in the State of Rio de Janeiro, above 500 meters, searching for granitic outcrops where *Alcantarea imperialis* (Bromeliaceae) grows. This bromeliad species is used by *Scinax v-signatus* in the type locality (Lutz 1968; 1973; Peixoto 1987).

Material and methods

Specimens examined are listed in the Appendix. For comparison with *Scinax atratus* (Peixoto, 1989) we relied on the original species description. Measurements were taken with a digital caliper to the nearest 0.1 mm with the