



A new species of *Pristimantis* (Amphibia: Craugastoridae) with cranial crests from the Colombian Andes

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Abstract

We describe a new species of *Pristimantis* (Anura: Craugastoridae) from Reserva Natural “La Sirena”, Valle del Cauca, Colombia. The new species is found in the Cordillera Central and is similar to *P. calcaratus*, *P. kelephus* and *P. jubatus*, all of them found in the Cordillera Occidental and are presumed to be related. The new species is distinguished from similar species by having cranial crests, tip of Toe V reaching the distal subarticular tubercle of Toe IV, conical tubercles present on heels and interocular area, and males lacking vocal slits but having white, glandular nuptial pads on thumbs.

Key words: Andes, Colombia, Craugastoridae, *Pristimantis*, Strabomantidae

Introduction

Direct-developing frogs (Brachycephalidae *sensu* Frost *et al.* 2006; Terrarana *sensu* Hedges *et al.* 2008) have undergone significant changes in their systematics, from a classification based on morphology (Lynch 1971, 1986, Lynch and Duellman 1997) to the implementation of molecular data (Crawford and Smith 2005, Frost *et al.* 2006, Heinicke *et al.* 2007, Hedges *et al.* 2008, Padial *et al.* 2009, Pyron and Wiens 2011). To date, 940 species have been described (Frost *et al.* 2011), and placed in five families: Brachycephalidae, Ceuthomantidae, Eleutherodactylidae, Craugastoridae and Strabomantidae (Hedges *et al.* 2008, Heinicke *et al.* 2009). More recently, Pyron and Wiens (2011) found that the genera *Hypodactylus* and *Strabomantis* are more closely related to craugastorids (*Haddadus* and *Craugastor*) than to the other genera of strabomantid sampled. Therefore, Strabomantidae was included within Craugastoridae and a new subfamily (Pristimantinae) was created for *Pristimantis*, *Lynchius*, *Oreobates*, and *Phrynopus*.

Pristimantis occurs from Honduras to Bolivia, throughout the Amazon Basin, south-central Brazil, and Venezuela, the Guianas, and Trinidad and Tobago, with a diversity peak in the Andes of Ecuador and Colombia (Hedges *et al.* 2008). In the Andean region of Colombia throughout Ecuador and Peru, *Pristimantis* is recognized as the genus with the highest species diversity (Lehr and Catenazzi 2009). To date, about 200 species of *Pristimantis* are known for Colombia (AmphibiaWeb 2011); however, knowledge about variation of morphological characters and aspects of natural history for many species is still limited. Our fieldwork in the Central Cordillera of Colombia resulted in the discovery of a new species of the genus *Pristimantis* similar to *P. calcaratus* (Boulenger 1908), which we describe herein.