



Article

A new species of *Elachistocleis* Parker (Anura, Microhylidae) from the State of Acre, Northern Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Elachistocleis* is described from the municipality of Xapuri, state of Acre, northern Brazil. It distinguishes from other species by the presence of an immaculate ventral coloration, SVL larger than 31 mm, and width head more than 6.9 mm in adult males. Multivariate analysis based on external morphology also distinguishes the new species from the most morphologically similar species. The advertisement call is described and tadpoles remain unknown.

Key words: Amphibia, Gastrophryinae, Xapuri, new species, description, taxonomy

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Elachistocleis* é descrita do município de Xapuri, estado do Acre, norte do Brasil. As principais diferenças das demais espécies do mesmo gênero são: a presença de coloração ventral imaculada, comprimento rostro-cloacal superior a 31 mm e largura da cabeça maior que 6,9 mm em machos adultos. Análise multivariada baseada em morfometria externa também distingue esta nova espécie das outras duas mais similares morfologicamente. É descrito também o canto de anúncio, que difere de *E. matogrosso*. As formas larvárias permanecem desconhecidas.

Palavras chave: Amphibia, Gastrophryinae, Xapuri, nova espécie, descrição, taxonomia

Introduction

Elachistocleis Parker is a genus that has 12 species; if not considered *E. ovalis* (Schneider 1799) (see Caramaschi 2010). The genus is distributed throughout Central America and most of South America, from Panama to Argentina, including Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil (Frost 2011). Half of this diversity has been described or revalidated in the last year for the Brazilian territory (Caramaschi 2010; Toledo 2010; Toledo *et al.* 2010): *E. bumbameuboi* Caramaschi, *E. carvalhoi* Caramaschi, *E. cesarii* (Miranda-Ribeiro), *E. heliannae* Caramaschi, *E. magnus* Toledo, *E. matogrosso* Caramaschi and *E. Surumu* Caramaschi. Therefore, it suggests that there might be more undescribed species in the neighboring countries, as the recent efforts were limited to the animals examined in Brazil, or even in Brazil, as there are areas with animals that were not evaluated by the former studies.

All species of *Elachistocleis* present morphological (such as robust body, short legs and small eyes), ecological (such as fossoriality life and explosive breeding strategy), and behavioral (such as the presence of a sustained high pitched advertisement call) similarities, which difficult species recognition (Caramaschi 2010; Toledo 2010; Toledo *et al.* 2010).

A preliminary analysis of specimens deposited in the Museu de Zoologia "Prof. Adão José Cardoso" (ZUEC), at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil, revealed the existence of a new species. The species was collected at the municipality of Xapuri, state of Acre, northern Brazil and is described hereby.