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# Morphometric and bioacoustic data on three species of *Pseudopaludicola* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1926 (Anura: Leptodactylidae: Leiuperinae) described from Chapada dos Guimarães, Mato Grosso, Brazil, with the revalidation of *Pseudopaludicola ameghini* (Cope, 1887)

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## Abstract

Due to minute size, overall morphological similarities, scarcity of diagnostic characters after preservation, and usual sympatric or even syntopic occurrence of two or more species of *Pseudopaludicola*, the taxonomy of the genus is not yet a matter of consensus. Three species in the genus *Pseudopaludicola* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1926 were described by Cope in 1887, based on material obtained at Chapada dos Guimarães, mid-western state of Mato Grosso, Brazil. One of these species, *Pseudopaludicola ameghini*, was subsequently synonymized to *P. mystacalis*. In this paper we present morphological and bioacoustic evidences supporting a full specific status for the three sympatric species of *Pseudopaludicola* described from Chapada dos Guimarães, including *Pseudopaludicola ameghini* Cope, 1887.

**Key words:** Advertisement call, morphology, *Pseudopaludicola ameghini*, *Pseudopaludicola mystacalis*, *Pseudopaludicola saltica*, revalidation, synonymy

## Introduction

The genus *Pseudopaludicola* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1926 currently comprises 15 valid species (Frost 2011; Carvalho 2012; Pansonato *et al*. 2012). Representatives of these species are widely distributed throughout South America, from northern Colombia to Argentina and Uruguay (Frost 2011), in open grasslands (seasonally flooded or not), open environments in the vicinities or even inside tropical rainforests, and dry forests (Lynch 1989; Lobo 1992; Pansonato *et al*. 2012). Small size (individuals up to 23 mm), morphological similarities, and polychromatism render to distinct species of *Pseudopaludicola* an overall similarity, which resulted in long-lasting taxonomic inconsistencies within the genus (Haddad & Cardoso 1987; Giaretta & Facure 2009; Fávero *et al.* 2011).

Three species in the genus *Pseudopaludicola* were described by Cope (1887) based on material obtained at Chapada dos Guimarães, mid-western state of Mato Grosso, Brazil: *Pseudopaludicola ameghini*, *Pseudopaludicola mystacalis*, and *Pseudopaludicola saltica*. These three taxa, originally described as *Paludicola* Wagler, 1830, were later considered synonyms of *Pseudopaludicola falcipes* (Hensel, 1867) by Milstead (1963), a taxonomic decision not recognized by subsequent authors, including Bokermann (1966) and Lynch (1971). Bokermann (1966) also considered *Pseudopaludicola ternetzi* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1937 a synonym of *P. ameghini*. Morphological differences mentioned in the original descriptions of *P. ameghini* and *P. mystacalis* include the

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