



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3716.4.6>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:95EAEF15-6A23-449E-94A0-8A9A7B72904B>

## A new and possibly critically endangered species of casque-headed tree frog *Aparasphenodon* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920 (Anura, Hylidae) from southeastern Brazil

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### Abstract

A new species of casque-headed tree frog of the genus *Aparasphenodon* is described from the municipality of Cataguases (21°20'S, 42°45'W; 288 m a.s.l.) in the Atlantic Rain Forest of Minas Gerais State, southeastern Brazil. *Aparasphenodon pomba* sp. nov. is characterized by medium size (males, snout-vent length, SVL 51.6–60.5 mm; females, SVL 58.7–62.1 mm); snout almost round in dorsal view; dorsum and limbs with cream-colored reticulation on dark-brown background; spots on ventral surface cream-colored; lips white; cream-colored dorsolateral stripe originating on the snout, crossing the upper eyelid and extending posteriorly to the axilla level; and red iris.

**Key words:** Amphibia, *Aparasphenodon pomba* sp. nov., Southeastern Brazil, Atlantic Rain Forest, taxonomy

### Introduction

The genus *Aparasphenodon* was established in 1920 by Alípio de Miranda-Ribeiro, based on a specimen of *A. brunoi* from southeastern Brazil (Carvalho 1941). This genus is characterized mainly by having the skull larger than broad; snout narrow and acuminate in dorsal view; canthal ridges distinct and concave anteriorly; bone configuration of dermal covering surface constituted by a reticulated web of low-relief grooves and a radial ridge pattern (Trueb 1970). However, so far its only putative synapomorphy is the presence of a prenasal bone (Trueb 1970; Faivovich *et al.* 2005).

*Aparasphenodon* currently includes four species, distributed from northern South America to southern Brazil (Pimenta *et al.* 2009; Frost 2011; Mollo Neto & Teixeira Jr. 2012). *Aparasphenodon venezolanus* (Mertens, 1950) occurs in northern Brazil, southwestern Venezuela and eastern Colombia; and *A. arapapa* Pimenta, Napoli & Haddad, 2009, *A. bokermanni* Pombal, 1993, and *A. brunoi* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920 inhabit the Atlantic Rain Forest in eastern Brazil. All the species have restricted distributions except for *A. brunoi*, which ranges from southern Bahia State to São Paulo State, and has its most inland record in Minas Gerais State, in the Doce River basin (Argôlo 2000; Frost 2011; Mollo Neto & Teixeira Jr. 2012). Herein, we describe a fifth species of *Aparasphenodon* from Minas Gerais.