

STUDIES ON THE FAUNA OF CURAÇAO AND OTHER
CARIBBEAN ISLANDS: No. 169

THE AMPHIBIA OF TRINIDAD

An addendum

by

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Since publication of "The Amphibia of Trinidad" (KENNY 1969) some minor errors have been drawn to the attention of the author. Also, it has been possible to do some additional field observations which have resulted in a new record for Trinidad and the extension of the distribution of two species. This short paper summarises this new information.

Leptodactylus macrosternum (Miranda Ribeiro)

This frog was collected in a small swamp at Icacos at the extreme south-western tip of Trinidad (see KENNY 1969, fig. 1).

It is a moderately large ground dwelling frog with males measuring 75 mm from snout to vent and females 90 mm snout to vent. It cannot readily be confused with any of the other Trinidad leptodactylids. In contrast to *Leptodactylus bolivianus* which is of the same approximate size, it possesses pronounced dermal folds whereas *L. bolivianus* is mainly smooth on the dorsum. Immature specimens would come out in the key in the same place as *L. sibilatrix* which has similar dermal folds. However, the markings readily separate the two species. *L. macrosternum* is prominently black-spotted dorsally and with a conspicuous inter-orbital patch

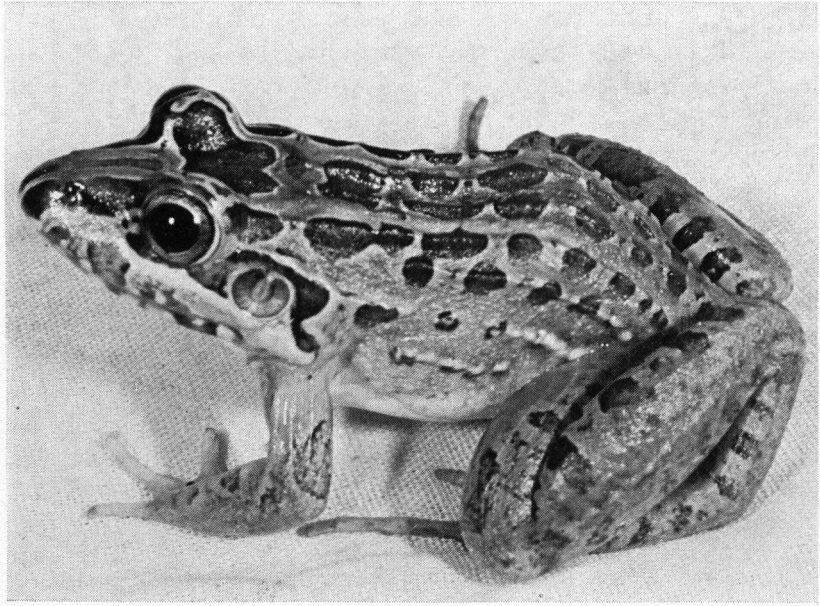


Fig. 26. *Leptodactylus macrosternum* (Miranda Ribeiro) from Icacos, Trinidad.

and with prominent bars along the canthus rostralis. In mature specimens some of the spots may fuse into a prominent stripe running along the canthus rostralis through the eye, and along the dorso-lateral dermal fold.

It has not been possible to study the life habits of this frog in Trinidad.

The discovery of *L. macrosternum* in Trinidad raises the question of the colonization of the island of Trinidad by mainland species. It is suggested that this species is a new arrival in Trinidad. Although all the evidence is circumstantial, the fact that the frog is confined to one comparatively narrow coastal swamp adjacent to the South-American mainland and the fact that several fresh-water fishes, notably *Gasteropelecus sternicla* and *Moenkhausia bondi*, are confined to the south-western tip of Trinidad would support the view of recent colonization. The passage between Icacos and the main-

land is approximately 10 kilometres wide and during the rainy season, flood waters from the Orinoco river frequently result in drastic lowering of surface salinities. In addition, large masses of floating vegetation are frequently transported across this passage to beaches in the Icacos region.

I am indebted to Professor JUAN RIVERO for identifying this new record.

Leptodactylus bolivianus (Boulenger)

There was one rather conspicuous mis-identification in the original Amphibia of Trinidad. I am indebted to Dr M. S. HOOGMOED of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, for drawing this to my attention. The large *Leptodactylus* referred to (1969, p. 72, pl. XIb) as *L. pentadactylus pentadactylus* is in fact *Leptodactylus bolivianus*.

Hyla crepitans Wied

It was originally reported (1969, p. 39) that *Hyla crepitans* was confined to the foot hills and valleys of the western part of the Northern Range. This frog has now been recorded at a number of places on the Caroni Plain. It is possible, therefore, that it may be a recent arrival which is slowly spreading throughout Trinidad. It has been found also in the island of Tobago.

Hyla misera Werner

On the basis of collections made in Venezuela and on field observations of tadpoles and of adult voices, I synonymised *Hyla goughi* with *H. misera* (1969, p. 42). HOOGMOED agrees with this (pers. comm.) and drew my attention to the fact that *H. misera* is now considered a sub-species of *H. microcephala* (FOUQUETTE 1968).

Sphaenorhynchus eurhostus Rivero

There has been a long argument concerning the correct name of this species, but it seems that RIVERO (1969) settled the case. In my 1969 paper this species was reported upon under the name *Hyla orophila* (p. 50).

Pseudis paradoxus caribensis Gallardo

Pseudis paradoxus does not occur naturally in the Caroni drainage (1969, p. 65). It was accidentally introduced there from collections made in southern Trinidad. It is now spread extensively in the Caroni Basin but it has not yet invaded the valleys of the Northern Range.

REFERENCES

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- RIVERO, J., 1969. A new name for *Sphaenorhynchus aurantiacus* (Daudin) (Amphibia, Salientia). *Copeia* 1969 (4): 700-703, fig. 1.