

STUDIES ON THE FAUNA OF SURINAME  
AND OTHER GUYANAS: No. 32.

A NEW FROG OF THE GENUS *CENTROLENELLA* FROM  
SURINAME

by

COLEMAN J. GOIN

(University of Florida, Gainesville)

While studying specimens in the Surinaams Museum in Paramaribo recently, I noticed a single specimen of *Centrolenella* that surely represents an undescribed species. Dr. D. C. GEIJSKES kindly permitted me to bring this specimen back to Gainesville so that I might draw up a description of it. It may appropriately be called

***Centrolenella geijskesi* sp. nov.**

Type. — Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, No. 11041; collected at about 200 meters altitude on the south slope of the Wilhelmina Mountains, District Nickerie, SURINAME, 4.VIII.1963, by Stefanus Ligorie.

Diagnosis. — A *Centrolenella* with vomerine teeth, large choanae, well developed webs between third and fourth fingers, and a dorsal pattern of uniform lavender with scattered small light spots in the lavender on the dorsal surfaces of the hind limbs.

Perhaps closest to *Centrolenella parabambae* from which it differs in having distinctly larger choanae and in having the web on the lateral side of the fourth toe reach to the base of the disk rather than to the base of the penultimate phalanx as in *parabambae*. Likewise the webbing on the feet is more extensively developed than in *parabambae*.

It may be distinguished from *Centrolenella fleischmanni*, the only other *Centrolenella* now known from Suriname by the presence of

vomerine teeth, the presence of dorsal pigmentation in preservative, and by the larger tympanum which is about one-half rather than one-fourth the diameter of the eye.

Description of type. – Vomerine teeth in two short, transverse series, lying close together between the rather large, somewhat ovate choanae; the choanae separated by about three times their own diameter; tongue three-fourths as wide as mouth-opening, nearly round, its posterior border free and unnotched. Snout rounded when viewed from above; nostrils no more lateral than superior, not

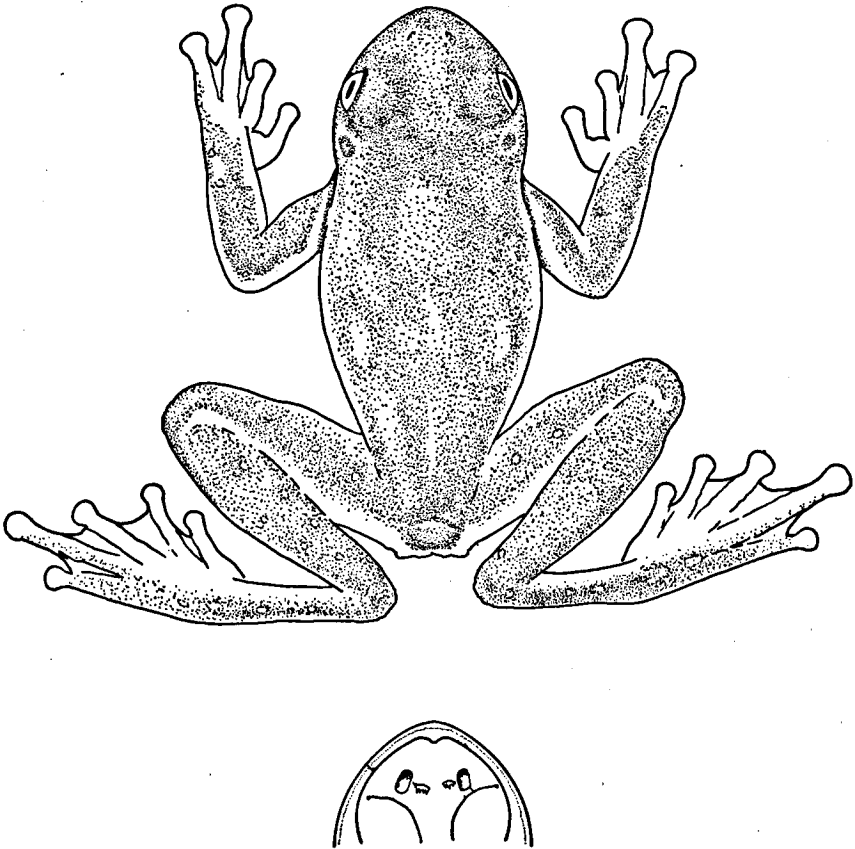


Fig. 102. *Centrolenella geijskesi* sp. n., ♀, holotype from Suriname.

projecting, their distance from end of snout slightly more than one-half that from eye, separated from each other by an interval nearly equal to their distance from eye. Canthus rostralis slightly defined; loreal region probably convex in life but now somewhat crushed. Eye prominent due to the dark choroid coat, its diameter somewhat less than its distance from nostril; palpebral membrane not reticulate; interorbital distance nearly twice the width of upper eyelid, which is slightly less than distance between nostrils. Tympanum moderately distinct, about one-half the diameter of eye, separated from eye by a distance nearly equal to its own diameter. Fingers with webs extending to the base of the disks between three and four but with just a trace of web between one and two and two and three; fourth considerably longer than second, but not quite reaching to disk of third which about covers the tympanic area; no projecting rudiment of a pollex; humeral spine slightly palpable with a fine needle but not apparent at surface of skin; no ulnar ridge; toes nearly completely webbed, the web on fourth toe reaching the base of the penultimate phalanx, third and fifth subequal, disk of fourth about covering the tympanic area; a distinct oval inner but no apparent outer metatarsal tubercle; no tarsal ridge; no dermal appendage on heel. Body not elongate, in post-axillary region about as broad as greatest width of head; when hind leg is adpressed, heel reaches to nostril; when limbs are laid along the sides, knee and elbow overlap slightly; when hind legs are bent at right angles to body, heels overlap slightly. No patagium extends from the back of the upper arm to the side of the body. Skin of upper parts smooth; skin of throat and chest smooth, that of belly uniformly and very finely granular; weak traces of a skinfold across chest; adult female, no vocal sac. Skin of head not coossified with skull, roof of skull not exostosed.

**Dimensions.** – Head and body 36.1 mm; head length 12.2 mm; head width 12.6 mm; femur 15.5 mm; tibia 17.0 mm; heel-toe 23.1 mm; hand 8.5 mm.

**Color in alcohol.** – Lavender above, pale below. The dorsal lavender color extends along the upper arm as a narrow stripe which then broadens to cover the entire dorsal surface of the lower arm and hand and extends on the dorsal surface of the fourth finger to the base of the penultimate phalanx. The dorsal surfaces of the

other fingers are free of pigment. On the hind limbs the dorsal lavender pigmentation extends as a narrow stripe along the thigh then widens to cover the dorsal surfaces of the shank and crus. There are scattered light spots in this dorsal pigmentation of the hind limbs. On the top of the fourth and fifth toes the pigmentation extends to the bases of the disks; the tops of the other toes are clear. Along the sides of the body the dorsal ground color merges gently into the clear ventral surfaces without a sharp line of demarcation such as we find in *buckleyi* for example. The black choroid coat of the eye shows conspicuously through the pale lavender upper eyelids.

Remarks. — The discovery of a species of *Centrolenella* in the mountainous region of Suriname is not at all surprising. The entire suite of Guiana Highlands have been rather poorly collected and many additional novelties surely await discovery there. I have examined the specimen (MCZ 28569) which RIVERO (Salientia of Venezuela, *Bull. M.C.Z.* 126, 1, 1961, p. 152, sub *Cochranella* sp.) described, but did not name, from the Guiana Highlands in Eastern Venezuela, and while I cannot pass judgement on its status it is certainly not the same as the species described here.

The type specimen of *Centrolenella geijskesi* was put in a bottle with some *Hyla maxima* and *Phyllomedusa bicolor* after it was collected and one of the large specimens pressing against it somewhat smashed the type. Fortunately, however, it was not smashed enough to obliterate any of its characters.

I wish to thank Dr. GEIJSKES for the privilege of describing this species; Mr. PAUL LAESSLE for the figure which accompanies this description; and the National Science Foundation for grant GB-1339 in support of my work on South American tree frogs.