



## The tadpole of the hylid frog *Scinax belloni* (Anura: Hylidae)

THIAGO SILVA-SOARES<sup>1</sup>, PAULO NOGUEIRA COSTA<sup>1</sup>,  
RODRIGO B. FERREIRA<sup>2,3</sup> & LUIZ NORBERTO WEBER<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Departamento de Vertebrados, Museu Nacional, Quinta da Boa Vista, 20940-040, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. E-mail: thiagossoares@ufrj.br

<sup>2</sup> Department of Wildland Resources and Ecology Center, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, 84322-5230, USA

<sup>3</sup> Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão, Av. José Ruschi, 4, Centro, 29650-000, Santa Teresa, ES, Brazil

<sup>4</sup> Universidade Federal da Bahia, Instituto de Ciências Ambientais e Desenvolvimento Sustentável, Rua Prof. José Seabra, s/n, Centro, 47805-100, Barreiras, BA, Brazil

### Abstract

*Scinax perpusillus* group is composed by 11 species. Only *Scinax arduous*, *Scinax littoreus*, *Scinax meloi*, *S. perpusillus*, *S. tupinamba*, and *S. v-signatus*, have its tadpole described. Herein we described the tadpole of *Scinax belloni* and its internal oral features. Tadpoles of *S. belloni* were collected in bromeliads at the Parque Estadual do Forno Grande, municipality of Castelo, Espírito Santo, southeastern. Two tadpoles were reared to froglets in order to allow specific identification. The morphology of *S. belloni* tadpoles resemble the other known larvae in many aspects such as oval body in dorsal view, coloration, rounded snout in dorsal view, dorsolateral eyes, anteroventral mouth and labial tooth row formula 2(2)/3. In fact, at first sight, all known tadpoles are very similar from each other. Nevertheless, they do can be distinguished by some characters as the shape of lower jaw; number of row of labial papillae; the size of the fins; height of tail and the body; whether musculature of tail reaches its tip and if tail ends rounded or pointed. *S. belloni* tadpoles are readily differentiated from the other known *Scinax* gr. *perpusillus* species tadpoles by the presence of a dark band that goes along the dorsal and ventral fin. The internal oral morphology of *S. belloni* is also described.

**Key words:** Amphibia, taxonomy, morphology, internal oral morphology.

### Introduction

The hylid genus *Scinax* Wagler, 1830 is widely distributed in the neotropics, occurring from Mexico to Argentina; currently, it is composed of 98 described species (Frost 2010) that are grouped in five species groups: *S. catharinae*, *S. perpusillus*, *S. rostratus*, *S. ruber*, and *S. uruguayus* (Duellman & Wiens 1992, Duellman 1993, Faivovich 2002, Frost 2010).

Peixoto (1987) proposed the *Scinax perpusillus* group for three species, *S. alcatraz* (Lutz 1968), *S. perpusillus* (Lutz 1973a), and *S. v-signatus* (Lutz 1973b). Eight additional species have since been added to this group: *S. atratus* (Peixoto 1988), *S. littoreus* (Peixoto 1988), *S. meloi* (Peixoto 1988), *S. arduous* Peixoto 2002, *S. faivovichii* Brasileiro *et al.* 2007, *S. peixotoi* Brasileiro 2007, *S. tupinamba* Silva and Alves-Silva 2008, and *S. belloni* Faivovich *et al.* 2010. All 11 species occur in the coastal region of southeastern Brazil, from the state of Santa Catarina north to the state of Espírito Santo; they inhabit both mountain regions and coastal areas, from sea level to ca. 1600 m (Frost 2010).

The last described species for *S. perpusillus* group is *Scinax* which was placed in *S. belloni perpusillus* group because it lacks webbing between Toes II-III and presumably breeds in bromeliads (Faivovich *et al.* 2010). Adult specimens of this species are different morphologically from others in the group, being comparable in snout-vent length only with the insular species *S. alcatraz*. Most specimens of this species were encountered by Faivovich *et al.* (2010) in bromeliad plants of the genus *Alcantarea* sp. These observations were made in the type-locality, the surroundings of the Parque Estadual do Forno Grande, municipality of