A new species of large green treefrog (Anura: Hylidae: *Litoria)* from northern New Guinea

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Abstract

A new species of large green frog of the hylid genus *Litoria* is described from northern New Guinea. The new species is superficially similar to *Litoria graminea* and *L. infrafrenata*. It can be distinguished from *L. graminea* by the possession of a poorly defined white labial stripe that does not extend beyond the ear, and from *L. infrafrenata* by the combination of comparatively small adult size (males 57.9–60.4 mm), fully webbed fingers and a call that is a long (0.7–0.9 s) deep guttural growl. It is known from lowland forests around the village of Utai in north-western Papua New Guinea.

Key words: Ampibia, Hylidae, *Litoria*, new species, New Guinea

Introduction

The frog fauna of New Guinea is among the most diverse and poorly known in the world. More than 280 taxa have been described from the region (Frost 2004) but numerous undescribed taxa are known and the total fauna may exceed 600 species (Günther 2006). Many recently discovered taxa are distinctive and easy to distinguish from described forms (Kraus & Allison 2004, Richards 2005).

Large green treefrogs of the genus *Litoria* are a conspicuous component of the Melanesian frog fauna. Four species, *Litoria caerulea* (White, 1790), *L. graminea* (Boulenger, 1905), *L. infrafrenata* (Günther, 1867) and *L. sanguinolenta* (Van Kampen, 1909), are currently recognised. *Litoria caerulea* is a robust frog (Cogger 2000) with an