



A new frog species (Strabomantidae: *Pristimantis*) from the High Andes of Southeastern Ecuador

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Abstract

We describe *Pristimantis gagliardoi*, a new medium sized (SVL 19.06–33.64 mm) *Pristimantis* species from the Andean forests of southeastern Ecuador. This species is referred to the *P. unistrigatus* group. It differs from other members in the *unistrigatus* group by the presence of large conical tubercles on the eyelid and heel, small conical ulnar and tarsal tubercles, suprascapular dermal ridges, and bronze iris.

Key words: Anura, Strabomantidae, Ecuador, Mazar Reserve, new species, *Pristimantis gagliardoi*, *Pristimantis unistrigatus*

Resumen

Describimos una especie nueva de tamaño medio (SVL 19.06–33.64 mm) de *Pristimantis* de los bosques andinos del sureste de Ecuador. Asignamos la especie al grupo *Pristimantis unistrigatus*. Difiere de otros miembros en el grupo *unistrigatus* por la presencia de tubérculos cónicos grandes en el párpado y en el talón y tubérculos cónicos pequeños en la ulna y el tarso, pliegues dérmicos supraescapulares e iris bronce.

Palabras clave: Anura, Strabomantidae, Ecuador, especie nueva, *Pristimantis gagliardoi*, *Pristimantis unistrigatus*, Reserva Mazar

Introduction

Pristimantis apparently is the most species-rich frog genus in the world, with nearly 427 named species; its distribution and diversity are mainly associated with the Andes (Heinicke *et al.* 2007, Hedges *et al.* 2008). In Ecuador the genus comprises 139 recognized species, 32% of the Ecuadorian frog diversity (Coloma 2005–2008). Estimates of Ecuadorian frog richness suggest that these numbers will keep rising (Ron *et al.* 2006). This increase will certainly be based in the Andes, where most new species are being discovered (Guayasamin *et al.* 2004, 2006; Cisneros-Heredia & McDiarmid 2007). Within *Pristimantis*, the *unistrigatus* group (*sensu* Lynch & Duellman 1997, Duellman & Pramuk 1999, Hedges *et al.* 2008) is the most speciose, comprising 82 Ecuadorian representatives. Herein we describe a new species associated to the *unistrigatus* group, based on specimens collected during fieldwork carried out by the authors since February 2004 in the Mazar Reserve, a poorly inventoried area on the eastern slope of the Ecuadorian Andes.