



## A new species of the *Rhinella margaritifera* group (Anura: Bufonidae) from Brazilian Pantanal

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### Abstract

We describe adult morphology, advertisement call and some natural history traits of a new species of toad from the Pantanal, western Brazil. *Rhinella paraguayensis* **sp. nov.** belongs to the *Rhinella margaritifera* group, and is characterized by medium size, snout rounded in dorsal view, with a vertical apical ridge, supraorbital crests weakly developed, parietal crest not well developed, postorbital crest prominent, presence of a dorsolateral line of tubercles, tympanum evident, bony protrusions at angle of jaws, absence of vertebral apophyses and of projections on upper eyelids, and parotoid glands small. The new species is distinguished from other species of the group by geographic distribution and by the use of floating mats of vegetation as reproductive site.

**Key words:** morphology, advertisement call, *Rhinella margaritifera* group, Pantanal

### Introduction

Species of the *Rhinella margaritifera* group are medium-sized toads, inhabitants of forest leaf litter in Central and South America (Frost 2009). This group remains problematic taxonomically in spite of recent efforts for elucidating the many fuzzy species boundaries. The difficulty lies principally in the cryptic morphological diversity and a lack of diagnostic characteristics for distinguishing the species (Caramaschi & Niemeyer 2003; Caramaschi & Pombal 2006; Fouquet *et al.* 2007b; Lima *et al.* 2007). According to Fouquet *et al.* (2007b) 14 species are currently recognized: *R. acutirostris* (Spix), *R. alata* (Thominot), *R. castaneotica* (Caldwell), *R. dapsilis* (Myers & Carvalho), *R. hoogmoedi* Caramaschi & Pombal, *R. lescurei* Fouquet, Gaucher, Blanc & Velez-Rodriguez, *R. magnussoni* Lima, Menin & Araújo, *R. margaritifera* (Laurenti), *R. martyi* Fouquet, Gaucher, Blanc & Velez-Rodriguez, *R. proboscidea* (Spix), *R. roqueana* (Melin), *R. sclerocephala* (Mijares-Urrutia & Arends), *R. scitula* (Caramaschi & Niemeyer), and *Rhinella stanlarii* (Lötters & Köhler). Out of the 14 species, 12 occur in Amazonia, while *R. hoogmoedi* occurs in the Atlantic forest and *R. scitula* in gallery forests in the Cerrado (Caramaschi & Niemeyer 2003; Caramaschi & Pombal 2006; Lima *et al.* 2007). Herein, we describe adults, advertisement calls, and provide information on natural history of a new species belonging to this group and found in the Pantanal, western Brazil.

### Material and methods

We examined 20 specimens housed in the Coleção Zoológica de Vertebrados of the Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso (UFMT, Cuiabá, Mato Grosso State, Brazil). Specimens in the type-series were collected in the