



A new species of the *Dendropsophus parviceps* group from the western Amazon Basin (Amphibia: Anura: Hylidae)

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Abstract

We describe *Dendropsophus frosti* **sp. nov.** from lowland *terra firme* rainforests of the headwaters of the Amazon River Basin in Colombia and Peru. The new species is known from only two localities, the type locality near Leticia (Departamento Amazonas, Colombia, 04° 06' 24.2" S, 69° 56' 57.4" W; 103 m.a.s.l.), and the paratopotypic locality, Piedras in the Putumayo basin (Departamento Loreto, Peru, 02.79278° S, 72.91750° W; 90–170 m.a.s.l.). Maximum likelihood and parsimony analyses of 2436 aligned base pairs of the 12S and 16S rRNA genes recovered the new species as a member of *D. parviceps* group and sister to *D. brevifrons*. The new species is most closely related to *D. parviceps*, *D. brevifrons*, and *D. koechlini*, and it can be readily distinguished from these and all other members of the *D. parviceps* group by, among other characters, its plain dorsal light brown coloration, copper iris, plain immaculate pale yellow to white venter coloration, lack of flash marks on groin and axillae, and absence of white spots on lips.

Key words: Amazon, Colombia, Peru, *Dendropsophus frosti*, new species

Introduction

The western Amazon Basin harbors the higher level of amphibian species diversity per area in the world (Bass *et al.* 2010), and fieldwork in the region is still revealing many additional new species (e.g. Köhler & Lötters 2001; Faivovich *et al.* 2006; Moravec *et al.* 2006, 2008; Brown & Twomey 2009; Padial & De la Riva 2009; Heinicke *et al.* 2009; Jungfer *et al.* 2010). However, in comparison to other groups of frogs for which new species discoveries are frequent in the area or elsewhere, few new *Dendropsophus* have been recently described. Indeed, only eleven species of *Dendropsophus*, five from the Amazonian lowlands, have been described since the beginning of the XXI century (Frost 2011). The last species described assigned to the *D. parviceps* group was *D. gaucheri* (Lescure and Marty 2000), but Fouquet *et al.* (2011) transferred it to the *D. microcephalus* group.

The *Dendropsophus parviceps* group, as redefined by Faivovich *et al.* (2005), contains 14 species (Frost 2011; Fouquet *et al.* 2011), distributed in the Amazon from Bolivia to northern Venezuela, through Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Guyana, and French Guiana, and in Brazilian Atlantic Forest, from southern Bahia to northern Rio Grande do Sul. However, Faivovich *et al.* (2005) and Fouquet *et al.* (2011) highlighted the need of a more rigorous test of the monophyly of the group. Subsequently, this group has been recovered as paraphyletic (Wiens *et al.* 2006, 2010; Moen & Wiens 2009; Pyron & Wiens 2011; Fouquet *et al.* 2011). Ten of these species occur in the Amazon [*D. allenorum* (Duellman and Trueb, 1989), *D. bokermanni* (Goin, 1960), *D. brevifrons* (Duellman and Crump, 1974), *D. grandisonae* (Goin, 1966), *D. koechlini* (Duellman and Trueb, 1989), *D. luteoocellatus* (Roux,