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The tadpole of *Pleurodema nebulosum* Burmeister (Anura: Leiuperidae)

GUILLERMINA GALVANI¹, EXEQUIEL GONZÁLEZ¹, EDUARDO SANABRIA^{1,2} & LORENA QUIROGA¹

¹Departamento de Biología. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas Físicas y Naturales. Universidad Nacional de San Juan. Av. Ignacio de la Roza 590 (Oeste), (5400) San Juan, Argentina. E-mail: guillegalvani.sj@gmail.com; gonzalezexequielpsc@gmail.com
quirogalb@gmail.com

²Laboratorio de Investigaciones Andrológicas de Mendoza, Instituto de Histología y Embriología de Mendoza, Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo. Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, CONICET. E-mail: sanabria.eduardoa@gmail.com

The genus *Pleurodema* Tschudi currently contains fourteen species, ten of them occurring in Argentina (Faivovich *et al.* 2012). However, *Pleurodema nebulosum* presents a wide altitudinal and latitudinal geographic range and is only distributed in arid areas of western Argentina, from Catamarca to Río Negro province (Ferraro & Casagrande 2009, Frost 2011). The external morphology was described for the tadpoles of most species of *Pleurodema*, but the external larval morphology of *P. nebulosum* was only briefly described by Fernández (1927) and Cei (1980). The aim of this work is to provide a detailed redescription of the external larval features of *Pleurodema nebulosum*.

The tadpoles were collected in February 2010 from temporary ponds in Sarmiento department, San Juan province (31.9143S; 68.4934W; altitude: 580 m). The tadpoles were anesthetized after capture and immediately fixed in 10 % buffered formalin. The description was based on 10 specimens at stage 37 of development (Limbaugh and Volpe 1957, as modified by Gosner 1960), some tadpoles were reared until metamorphosis was complete for species identification. We recorded 17 morphometrical variables: Total length (TL), Body length (BL), Tail length (TAL), Maximum body height (MBH), Maximum tail height (MTH), Tail muscle height (TMH), Dorsal fin height (DFH), Ventral fin height (VFH), Maximum body width (MBW), Body width at nares (BWN), Tail muscle width (TMW), Eye diameter (E), Interorbital distance (IOD), Internarial distance (IND), Eye-nares distance (END), Snout-narial distance (SND) and Oral disc width (ODW). Measurements were taken under a stereomicroscope with digital caliper (0.01 mm precision). Terminology and measurements followed Lavilla and Scrocchi (1986), Altig and McDiarmid (1999) and Grenat *et al.* (2009). The specimens were deposited in the herpetological collection of Fundación Miguel Lillo (FML 24837), Tucumán, Argentina. The morphological measurements are in millimeters (mm) and are presented as mean \pm standard error and [minimum – maximum].

Description of the tadpoles: Total length is 20.7 \pm 0.5 mm; body is gently depressed in the anterior ventral portion in lateral view and ovoid and elongated in dorsal view (MBH/MBW = 0.7 \pm 0.04 [0.40–0.94] mm), with maximum width at the final portion of the body. The snout is rounded in dorsal and lateral views. Nostrils are circular and located in dorsal position. Eyes are rounded, small (E/MBW = 0.1 \pm 0.009 [0.10–0.19] mm) and dorsolateral located. Spiracle is simple, short, sinistral, lateroventrally positioned, located in the anterior portion of the body, visible in lateral view with the opening directed towards the left flank, with absent opercular wall of the tube. The tail represents about 58 % of total length (TAL/TL = 0.5 \pm 0.01 [0.47–0.62] mm), and final portion is rounded. The dorsal fin originates at the junction of the body and the tail; it is slightly larger than the ventral fin and have mean relation of DFH/VFH = 1.6 \pm 0.19 [1.18–3.25] mm. A medial vent tube is attached to the ventral fin.

Measurements in mm: TL = 20.7 \pm 0.5 [17.63–22.81]; BL = 8.9 \pm 0.2 [8.16–9.84]; TAL = 11.9 \pm 0.4 [9.56–13.78]; MBH = 3.1 \pm 0.2 [1.63–3.87]; MTH = 2.5 \pm 0.1 [1.63–3.60]; TMH = 1.4 \pm 0.07 [1.15–1.95]; DFH = 0.9 \pm 0.08 [0.58–1.40]; VFH = 0.6 \pm 0.07 [0.28–1.10]; MBW = 4.3 \pm 0.14 [3.67–5.13]; BWN = 2.6 \pm 0.13 [2.13–3.42]; TMW = 0.7 \pm 0.06 [0.38–1.03]; E = 0.7 \pm 0.04 [0.43–0.82]; IOD = 2 \pm 0.07 [1.64–2.31]; IND = 0.7 \pm 0.05 [0.53–0.97]; END = 1.1 \pm 0.07 [0.89–1.67]; SND = 1.2 \pm 0.11 [0.87–1.90]; ODW = 1.2 \pm 0.03 [1.09–1.36].

Oral disc: The oral disc is anteroventral, small (OD/MBW = 0.28 \pm 0.009 [0.21–0.31] mm), laterally emarginated (Fig. 1 A). The oral disc has a single row of marginal papillae that are simple, sub-conical. A large dorsal gap almost as long as the first upper tooth row is present. Single labial teeth, with one cusp, and straight ridges. Tooth row formula 2(2)/2. Keratinized jaw sheaths with upper jaw totally pigmented, and lower jaw pigmented on its upper half; finely serrated edges in both jaws; upper jaw sheath widely arch-shaped with lateral processes that keep the curvature of the jaw; lower jaw sheath widely U-shaped.