



Correspondence

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:8E3A1181-084B-4B3C-83C3-1138795711C3

The giant tadpoles of *Megaelosia jordanensis* (Heyer, 1983)

PAULO NOGUEIRA-COSTA^{1,4}, PATRICIA ALMEIDA-SANTOS^{2,3}, CARLOS ALBERTO GONÇALVES CRUZ¹
& ULISSES CARAMASCHI¹

¹Departamento de Vertebrados/Programa de Pós-graduação em Zoologia, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Quinta da Boa Vista, s/n, 20940-040, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

²Departamento de Ecologia, Instituto de Biologia Roberto Alcântara Gomes, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, R. São Francisco Xavier 524, 20550-013, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

³Departamento de Ecologia/Programa de Pós-graduação em Ecologia, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Av. Carlos Chagas Filho 373 Bl. A, Cidade Universitária, 21941-902, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

⁴Corresponding author. E-mail: nogpj@yahoo.com.br

The genus *Megaelosia* Miranda-Ribeiro currently comprises seven species associated with Atlantic Rain Forest of southeastern Brazil. This genus is composed of big-sized diurnal frogs that live associated to lotic streams in forests (Giaretta, *et al.* 1993). Five out of seven *Megaelosia* species have its larvae described: *M. apuana* Pombal, Prado & Canedo; *M. boticariana* Giaretta & Aguiar; *M. goeldii* Baumann; *M. lutzae* Izecksohn & Gouvêa; *M. massarti* De Witte (Pombal *et al.* 200; Giaretta & Aguiar, 1998; Lutz, 1930; Nuin, 2003; Giaretta *et al.*, 1993).

Megaelosia jordanensis (Heyer, 1983) is known only from the type locality in Campos do Jordão, state of São Paulo, southeastern Brazil and this is the unique species of *Megaelosia* genus that occur in this locality (Frost, 2012). Data from tadpoles of this species are unknown. Herein we describe the tadpole of *M. jordanensis*.

Seven tadpoles of *M. jordanensis* were collected in the municipality of Campos do Jordão, state of São Paulo, on 1969 and housed in the collection of the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade Federal de São Paulo (MZUSP 94580). Tadpoles were preserved in 5% formaline. The description and measurements follow Altig & McDiarmid (1999) and the development stages follow Gosner (1960). Measurements were taken with a caliper to the nearest 0,01 mm and with a millimetric ocular coupled to a stereoscopic microscopy Zeiss Stemi SV8. Although no specimens were kept until metamorphosis to ascertain their specific identity, *M. jordanensis* is the only species of the genus that occurs in Campos do Jordão, thus, there is no doubt about the identity of the tadpole. Tadpoles were in stages 25, 26, 34 and 37.

Description of the tadpole. The description was accomplished using tadpoles in stage 34. Body is robust, rounded in dorsal and elliptical in lateral views, body height 82.1% of body width, body length corresponds to 38.4% of total length; snout rounded in dorsal and lateral views, truncate in lateral view in some individuals. Eyes of moderate size, positioned dorsally and directed dorsolaterally, not visible in ventral view, with diameter 7.1% of body length. Nostrils dorsally oriented, rounded in lateral view with a triangular projection medially in its internal margin which gives them a reniform aspect in dorsal view, inter-nostril distance 77.6% of inter-orbital distance, nostril-snout distance corresponds to 97.3% of eye-nostril distance, distance between nostril and snout 13.5% of body length. Spiracle sinistral, short, tubular-shaped, visible in dorsal view, with the inner wall free; spiracle posterolaterally oriented, its opening is elliptical and located approximately at mid-body. Tail higher than the body, body height correspond to 79.4% of tail height and tail length representing about 61.9% of the total length; tail has robust musculature and ends in a pointed tip; dorsal and ventral fins originates in the body-tail junction; dorsal fin is arched and slightly wider than the ventral fin, which is relatively straight. Anal tube as longer as wide, attached to the ventral fin and dextral. Four points of neuromasts accumulation was present ventrally and two points laterally just anteriorly to the spiracle.

Oral disc is ventral (Fig. 1C), not emarginated with one lateral fold on each side of the oral disc. Its width corresponds to 44.8% of body width. Bordered by two rows of marginal papillae interrupted by a large gap at the anterior labium. On the maxilla, one row of submarginal papillae appears laterally to A1 and another to A2, and posteriorly, one row of marginal papillae appears laterally to P1 and another to P3. Labial tooth row formula 2(2)/3(1). Jaw sheaths well developed and completely serrated, the upper one being V-shaped and lower one U-shaped.

Tadpole coloration. In preservative, the body is dark brown, with ventral and lateral region lighter than the dorsum. The tail is brown with dark brown spots on muscles and fins. The bright regions of fins are slightly translucent