



A new species of *Noblella* (Anura: Craugastoridae) from the Amazonian Slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes with Comments on *Noblella lochites* (Lynch)

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Abstract

We describe a new species of *Noblella* from wet, montane forest at the Sardinayacu Lake Complex between 1600–1920 m elevation in Morona Santiago, Ecuador. The new species differs from congeners in having three phalanges in the fourth finger, finely tuberculate skin on the dorsal body, pointed digital tips with marginal grooves on the fingers, a yellow to pale yellow venter, and a reduced facial mask not extending beyond the arm. The new species also lacks the pair of inguinal spots on the dorsal flanks of most congeners. Since its discovery in 1976, *N. lochites* has remained poorly known. We describe variation, color in life, and basic ecology of *N. lochites* based on a large series from the Cordillera del Condor.

Key words: Cordillera del Condor, Morona Santiago, *Noblella personina* new species, Sardinayacu Lake Complex, vocalizations

Resumen

Se describe una especie nueva de *Noblella* del bosque montano del Complejo Lacustre Sardinayacu, entre 1600-1920 m de altitud, de Morona Santiago, Ecuador. La nueva especie difiere de sus congéneres por tener tres falanges en el cuarto dedo manual, dorsalmente la piel es finamente tuberculada, los dedos manuales presentan papilas digitales puntiagudas y leves rebordes cutáneos, vientre de color amarillo a amarillo pálido y una máscara facial reducida que no se extiende más allá de la parte proximal del brazo. La nueva especie carece del par de manchas suprainguinales, presentes en la mayoría de sus congéneres. Desde el descubrimiento de *N. lochites* en 1976, se conoce muy poco sobre esta especie. Describimos la variación de color en vida y datos ecológicos básicos fundamentados en una serie grande proveniente de la Cordillera del Cóndor.

Introduction

Frogs of the genus *Noblella* are some of the smallest Neotropical vertebrates. These frogs were referred to *Phyllonastes* Heyer (1977) until De la Riva *et al.* (2008) revalidated *Noblella* Barbour (1930) and transferred *Phyllonastes* to its synonymy. Hedges *et al.* (2008) recently placed *Noblella* in the terraranan frog family Strabomantidae, however, Pyron and Wiens (2011) synonymized Strabomantidae with Craugastoridae.

Currently, *Noblella* contains 11 described species. *Noblella carrascoicola* (De la Riva & Köhler 1998), *N. duellmani* (Lehr *et al.* 2004), *N. lynchi* (Duellman 1991), *N. peruviana* (Noble 1921), *N. pygmaea* Lehr and Catenazzi (2009), and *N. ritarasquinae* (Köhler 2000) have been reported only from Peru or Bolivia. Four species inhabit Ecuador: *N. coloma* Guayasamin and Terán (2009) and *N. heyeri* (Lynch 1986) on the western slopes of the Andes; *N. lochites* (Lynch 1976) above 900 m in humid forests of the eastern Andes, Cordillera del Cóndor, and Cordillera de Cutucú; and the widespread species *N. myrmecoides* (Lynch 1976) in the Amazonian lowlands and humid forests of the eastern Andean below 1200 m.