A new morphologically cryptic species of forest frog (genus *Platymantis*) from New Britain Island, Bismarck Archipelago

RAFE M. BROWN¹, STEPHEN J. RICHARDS², JEET SUKUMARAN¹ & JOHANNES FOUFOPoulos³

¹Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Blvd, Lawrence, KS 66045-7561, USA.

²Vertebrates Department, South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000, Australia.

³School of Natural Resources and Environment, Dana Hall, 440 Church St. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1041, USA.

Abstract

We describe a new species of forest frog in the genus *Platymantis* from New Britain Island, Bismarck Archipelago, Papua New Guinea. The new species is a morphologically cryptic form that has masqueraded for almost four decades under the name *P. schmidti* (formerly *P. papuensis schmidti*, Brown & Tyler, 1968). The new species is microsympatric with the geographically widespread *P. schmidti* at two known localities. We diagnose the new species on the basis of its distinctive advertisement call and slight but consistent differences in body size and proportions. Calling males of the new species appear to prefer more elevated perches than do males of *P. schmidti* and the new species may exhibit a greater extent of sexual size dimorphism.

Key words: forest frogs, wrinkled frogs, *Platymantis*, Bismarck Archipelago, SW Pacific, advertisement calls, cryptic species diversity

Introduction