



A new species of *Allobates* (Anura: Aromobatidae: Allobatinae) exhibiting a novel reproductive behaviour

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Abstract

A new species of *Allobates* is described from the Mabura Hill Forest Reserve, central Guyana, South America. The new species is distinguished from congeneric species by cryptic colouration, very small size, first finger longer than second, third finger not distinctly swollen in males, absence of lateral fringes on fingers and toes, complete lateral black band present, diffuse pale dorsolateral stripe present, diffuse, pale, partial oblique lateral stripe present, pale ventrolateral stripe present, throat in adult males pale, and unique advertisement call and reproductive behaviour. The new species occasionally deposits tadpoles in leptodactylid foam nests, which constitutes the first case of interspecific brood parasitism in frogs.

Key words: *Allobates spumaponens* sp. nov., Anura, Aromobatidae, Guyana, Mabura Hill Forest Reserve, reproductive behaviour

Introduction

Grant *et al.* (2006) recently proposed a new monophyletic taxonomy for the family Dendrobatidae on the basis of genotypic and phenotypic evidence. This extensive and detailed revision led to the creation of the family Aromobatidae to accommodate the genera *Anomaloglossus*, *Rheobates* (Anomaloglossinae), *Aromobates*, *Mannophryne* (Aromobatinae), and *Allobates* (Allobatinae) (Grant *et al.* 2006). Nearly half of the species previously referred to the large polyphyletic genus *Colostethus* are now included in the genus *Allobates*, which currently contains 44 species (Frost 2007).

Recent intensive fieldwork at the Mabura Hill Forest Reserve in central Guyana has resulted in the discovery of a new species of *Allobates* morphologically similar to *A. granti* (Kok, MacCulloch, Gaucher, Poelman, Bourne, Lathrop and Lenglet, 2006). The new species is described herein.

Study site

The Mabura Hill Forest Reserve (MHFR) is situated approximately 20 km southeast of the township Mabura Hill, central Guyana (5°13'N, 58°48'W). It encompasses approximately 20 km² of primary rain forest and is part of the Wappu compartment located within a 500 km² Timber Sales Agreement concession. Disturbed sites