



A new peculiar frog species of the genus *Pristimantis* from Yanachaga-Chemillén National Park, Peru*

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Abstract

We describe a new species of frog, *Pristimantis leucorrhinus* **sp. nov.**, from the Cordillera Yanachaga, Yanachaga-Chemillén National Park, on the eastern slopes of the Andes in Central Peru. The new species belongs to the *P. unistrigatus* group and is characterized by the absence of a tympanum, the presence of horn-like tubercles on upper eyelids and a characteristic colour pattern.

Key words: Anura; Leptodactylidae; *Pristimantis*; New species; Andes; Peru; Cordillera Yanachaga-Chemillén

Introduction

Eleutherodactyline frogs represent over one fourth of all amphibians of the Neotropics. Until recently most were placed in the genus *Eleutherodactylus*, the largest among vertebrates, with over 600 species ranging from the southern United States to Argentina, including the Caribbean. Frost *et al.* (2006) proposed to subdivide *Eleutherodactylus* (sensu lato) into the genera *Craugastor*, *Euhyas*, *Eleutherodactylus* (sensu stricto), *Pelorius*, and *Syrrophus*, and to place them in the family Brachycephalidae Günther, 1858. Thereafter Heinicke *et al.* (2007) on the basis of DNA sequence analysis recognized three major clades: a South American clade (genus *Pristimantis* Jiménez de la Espada), a Caribbean clade (genus *Eleutherodactylus* Duméril and Bibron), and a Middle American clade (genus *Craugastor* Cope).

Among over 390 species now attributed to *Pristimantis* (Heinicke *et al.* 2007), at least 94 are found in Peru (Frost 2007), more than fifty of which occur in the mountain ranges of eastern Peru (Duellman & Hedges 2005).

In central Peru, the Cordillera Yanachaga is an isolated mountain range to the east of the main Andean chain; it rises to over 4000 m a.s.l. (Hedges 1990). As emphasized by Duellman & Hedges (2005) most species of Anurans of the cloud forest of the Central and Oriental Cordilleras have small latitudinal and vertical distributions. Indeed, eight new species of *Eleutherodactylus* (now *Pristimantis*) were recently described from this area, four of which from the Parque Nacional Yanachaga Chemillén (Duellman & Hedges 2005, Lehr *et al.* 2006).

During a rapid vertebrate survey in the Parque Nacional Yanachaga-Chemillén in November 2006, we sampled amphibians at Quebrada San Alberto (about 10°32'S 75°21'W) along the trail from the park boundary (2350 m a.s.l.) to the pass at Abra Esperanza (2700 m a.s.l.).