



A new species of four-eyed frog genus *Pleurodema* Tschudi, 1838 (Anura: Leiuperidae) from the rock meadows of Espinhaço range, Brazil

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Abstract

A new Brazilian species of *Pleurodema*, closer to *Pleurodema diplolister* (Peters), from the Brazilian rock meadows (Campos Rupestres) is described. This new species is characterized by the following combination of traits: medium size (males 32.3–36.1 mm SVL); lumbar gland absent; tarsal fold absent; presence of a tarsal tubercle near the heel; inner metacarpal tubercle rounded and well developed in males; supernumerary tubercles on hand absent or vestigial; *annulus tympanicus* distinct; absence or vestigial presence of fringes in fingers; and absence of flash coloration in the hidden portions of the thighs and groin.

Key words: *Pleurodema diplolister*, *Pleurodema alium*, Campos Rupestres, geographic distribution

Introduction

Currently, the genus *Pleurodema* Tschudi, is composed of 14 species (Frost 2010): *P. bibroni* Tschudi; *P. borellii* (Peracca); *P. brachyops* (Cope); *P. bufoninum* Bell; *P. cinereum* Cope; *P. cordobae* Valetti, Salas and Martino; *P. diplolister* (Peters); *P. fuscomaculatum* (Steindachner); *P. guayapae* Barrio; *P. kriegi* (Müller); *P. marmoratum* (Duméril & Bibron); *P. nebulosum* (Burmeister); *P. thaul* (Lesson); and *P. tucumanum* Parker. The distribution of this genus comprises the Neotropical region mainly in areas with dry or open forest formations (Barrio 1964; Lynch 1971; Duellman & Veloso 1977; Cei 1980; Feio & Caramaschi 1995; Correa *et al.* 2007; Ferraro & Casagrande 2009; Kolenc *et al.* 2009; Frost 2010).

Cystignathus diplolistris was described by Peters (1870) based on two syntypes from “Ceára” (=Ceará), Northeastern Brazil, and its wide distribution is associated to the Caatinga environment (Brazilian dry forest; see Ab’Saber 1977) and neighboring areas (Frost 2010). While investigating the morphometric, morphological, and color pattern variation of populations currently associated to *Pleurodema diplolister* (DBM unpublished data), we have found specimens previously identified as such from “Campos Rupestres” (Brazilian rock meadows of highlands) that appear to have sufficient morphological differentiation to be erected as a new species.

Herein, we describe this new species morphologically similar to *Pleurodema diplolister*.

Material and methods

We examined 143 males and 83 females along the geographic distribution of *Pleurodema diplolister*, 12 of them were being assigned to an undescribed species. Comparisons of specimens referred to the new species with those of known species were based on observations of museum material and literature information from