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## A new species of *Crossodactylodes* (Anura: Leptodactylidae) from Minas Gerais, Brazil: first record of genus within the Espinhaço Mountain Range

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### Abstract

The genus *Crossodactylodes* comprises three species of Atlantic Rainforest endemic frogs strictly dependent on bromeliads where they spend their entire life cycle. The current geographic distribution of the genus covers highland areas of Atlantic Rainforest in the States of Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo, Southeastern Brazil. We describe a new species of the genus from Parque Estadual do Pico do Itambé, at Santo Antônio do Itambé municipality, State of Minas Gerais, South-eastern Brazil. *Crossodactylodes itambe* **sp. nov.** is characterized by the following combination of traits: male SVL  $16.2 \pm 1.3$  (14.0–17.6 mm, n = 10), female SVL  $16.2 \pm 1.0$  (13.5–18.0 mm, n = 15); snout short, rounded in dorsal view, sloping in lateral view; absence of vocal sac and vocal slits in males; absence of vomerine teeth; males with upper arms and forearms hypertrophied; cloacal flap prominent, simple; dorsal skin coarsely granular. The new species inhabits rupicolous bromeliads in open areas of rocky fields, and is recorded in altitudes between 1836 and 2062 m above sea level. This record extends the genus distribution for about 325 km northwest from where it was known. *Crossodactylodes* **sp. nov.** is the only species of the genus that occurs in open field habitats (*campos rupestres*), in very high altitudes of a non-costal mountain range (the Espinhaço Range).

**Key words:** Amphibia, *Crossodactylodes itambe* **sp. nov.**, endemism, *campos rupestres*, Espinhaço Range

### Introduction

*Crossodactylodes* Cochran, 1938 was initially proposed to allocate a new species, *Crossodactylodes pinto*, a small anuran collected at Serra de Macaé, municipality of Nova Friburgo, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (see Bokermann 1966). In the 1980 decade, new information about the genus was provided with a description of two new species (*Crossodactylodes bokermanni* and *Crossodactylodes izecksohni*) from Santa Teresa, State of Espírito Santo (Peixoto 1983 “1982”). Peixoto (1981; 1983 “1982”) confirmed the bromeligenous (species that have their whole life cycle associated to these plants, *sensu* Peixoto 1995) habit of the genus, and the condition of the aquatic tadpoles. Currently, the genus comprises three species (Frost 2013): *Crossodactylodes pinto* Cochran, 1938, *Crossodactylodes bokermanni* Peixoto, 1983 “1982” and *Crossodactylodes izecksohni* Peixoto, 1983 “1982”. The genus was defined based on few morphological features such as dilated toes and fingers, less roughened vomerine teeth and hidden tympanum (Cochran 1938), but without any comment about the main characteristics: a group of horny spines on the thumb of males. This character was only mentioned by Cochran in 1955, through a redescription of the species-type. Later, Lynch (1971) complemented the morphological and osteological characterization of the genus, including information on reproduction in bromeliads and tadpole habitats. The current known geographic distribution of the genus covers highland areas of Atlantic Rainforest in the States of Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo (Cochran, 1955; Peixoto 1983).

During surveys conducted on highland areas within the Espinhaço Mountain Range at Parque Estadual do Pico do Itambé (Santo Antônio do Itambé municipality, State of Minas Gerais, southeastern of Brazil), the