

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae, *Scinax aromothyella*: Distribution extension and habitat.

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Scinax aromothyella is a small hylid frog of the *Scinax catharinae* species group (Figure 1) described from three localities in central and northern Province of Misiones, northeastern Argentina (Faivovich 2005). Prigioni et al. (2005) recently extended its distribution to central-eastern Uruguay, about 750 km southwards from previously known localities. During a field survey on 30 October 2006, at Sierra de Carapé, Department of Maldonado, southeastern Uruguay (34°20'64" S, 54°37'50" W, 330 m above sea level) we captured a male of *S. aromothyella*. This new locality extends the known distribution of this species about 170 Km southwards.



Figure 1. Adult male of *Scinax aromothyella* (nocturnal coloration pattern), surroundings of Quebrada de los Cuervos, Department of Treinta y Tres, Uruguay. Photo: F. Kolenc.

The specimen is stored at the Vertebrate Zoology Collection, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República, Uruguay (ZVCB 11781). It was found at night, calling on the vegetation (predominantly *Eryngium* sp., Apiaceae) at the edge of a temporary pond, close to the water surface. The pond (Figure 2) is located in an open area of hilly landscapes with rocky floor and patches of native forest (*monte serrano*). Another male of *S. aromothyella* was seen vocalizing at this site on 24 February 2002; it was reported by Kolenc et al. (2004) as *S. berthae*. The habitat at this site is similar to that at the locality reported by Prigioni et al. (2005), a semi permanent pond in an open hilly area with scarce arboreal vegetation (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Habitat of *Scinax aromothyella* at Sierra de Carapé, Department of Maldonado, southeastern Uruguay. Photo: F. Kolenc.



Figure 3. Habitat of *Scinax aromothyella*, surroundings of Quebrada de los Cuervos, Department of Treinta y Tres, in central-eastern Uruguay. Photo: F. Kolenc.

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The known localities of *S. aromothyella* in Uruguay belong to the landscape unit *Serranías*, composed by hilly environments up to 500 m altitude, whose annual mean temperature and precipitation are 17 °C and 1,000 - 1,200 L/m² respectively (Evia and Gudynas 2000). Faivovich (2005) mentioned that *S. aromothyella* in Misiones, Argentina, also inhabits permanent or semi permanent water bodies of open areas, in contrast to most species of the *S. catharinae* clade which are more common inside forests.

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Scinax aromothyella probably is more widely distributed in Uruguay as there is a continuum of hilly landscapes between the two known localities, although at some places these habitats are being largely altered by *Eucalyptus* sp. and *Pinus* sp. crops. It may also be present in some areas of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, because the specimens treated as *Scinax* cf. *berthae* by Kwet and Di-Bernardo (1999) could actually be *S. aromothyella* (Faivovich, 2005).

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