

# Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae, *Cruziohyla craspedopus* (Funkhouser, 1957): Distribution extension in southwestern Amazonia, state of Rondônia, Brazil

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**ABSTRACT:** We report for the first time the presence of the Fringed Leaf Frog *Cruziohyla craspedopus* in southwestern Amazonia in an area near the transition between rainforest and savanna enclaves vegetation in the state of Rondônia. The specimen was collected in the Estação Ecológica do Cuniã located at BR 319 (Manaus – Porto Velho Highway).

The genus *Cruziohyla* Faivovich *et al.*, 2005 is currently composed by two species: *Cruziohyla calcarifer* (Boulenger, 1902) and *Cruziohyla craspedopus* (Funkhouser, 1957). *Cruziohyla craspedopus* was described on the basis of two specimens from Chicherota, Rio Bobonaza, Napo-Pastaza Province, Ecuador (02°22' S, 76°38' W) (Funkhouser, 1957). This frog has conspicuous dermal fringes on the lips and shanks. The fingers lack webbing but the toes are four-fifths webbed; discs on the digits are large and round. The dorsum is lavender green with scattered, irregular, lichenous, grayish white spots; the granular venter and all ventral surfaces of fringes are bright yellow or orange-yellow. The flanks are yellow with 6-8 vertical brown bars. The iris is greyish white with fine black reticulations; the lower eyelid is dark green with irregular pale green and silver reticulations (Funkhouser 1957; Hoogmoed and Cadle 1991; Rodriguez and Duellman 1994).

This frog inhabits high trees in primary forest, but descends to low branches to breed. The call is a soft “cluck.” Clutches of 14-21 eggs, 4 mm in diameter with a large capsule (total diameter about 12 mm), are deposited on vegetation overhanging water-filled cavities in logs. Tadpoles attain lengths of 45-65 mm. The body is dark gray to black, and the tail is black with blue-gray spots (Hoogmoed and Cadle 1991; Rodriguez and Duellman 1994).

*Cruziohyla craspedopus* is known from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and two localities in Brazil (Frost 2011). This species has been reported in Brazil from the municipality of Castanho (03°21'16.8" S 59°51'37.9" W) in Amazonas state (Lima *et al.* 2003) and from Cotriaguaçu in Mato Grosso (9°51'16.9" S, 58°14'57.7" W) (Rodrigues *et al.* 2011).

Following Angulo *et al.* (2004) the conservation status for *Cruziohyla craspedopus* is of least concern, since this species has a wide distribution area with large areas of natural habitat preserved, which makes even

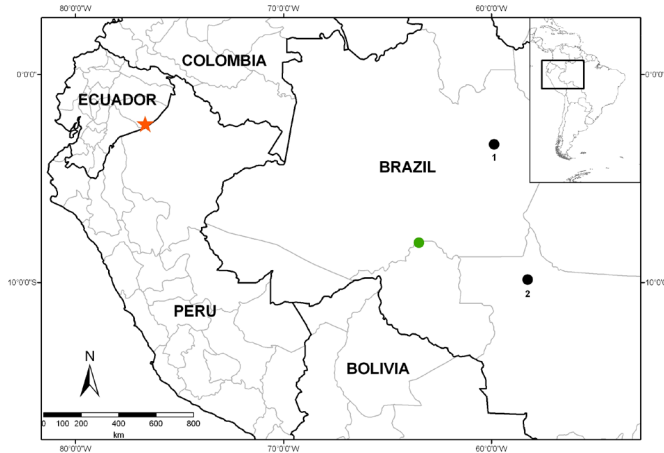
the degradation of land for pastures and crops little threatening for its conservation in short-term. Moreover, the geographical distribution of *C. craspedopus* overlap protected areas in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia (Cisneros-Heredia unpublished data; Ron 2001; Ruiz-Carranza *et al.* 1996) as well as in the are of this study.

On 30 November 2010 an adult male *Cruziohyla craspedopus* (Figure 1) was found vocalizing on a large leaf of Caranaí palm (*Lepidocaryum tenue* Mart.) at the Estação Ecológica do Cuniã (08°06'23.4" S 63°28'59.9" W, 87 m above sea level) (Figure 2) *ca.* 180 cm above a temporary pond located in the grid of the ‘Programa de Pesquisa em Biodiversidade’ (PPBio). The specimen was collected and has been deposited in the Coleção de Referência da Herpetofauna do Estado de Rondônia (UFRO-H 000720) of



**FIGURE 1.** Adult male of *Cruziohyla craspedopus*. Photo by: Diego Meneghelli.

the Universidade Federal de Rondônia (UNIR). This is the first record of the species to a region around a transition area between the Amazon and savannah enclaves ("campos de Puciari / Humaitá"). This new record extends the geographical range of *Cruziohyala craspedopus* in Brazil ca. 670 km southwest from the known record at Castanho, near Manaus (Lima et al. 2003), 652 km west from Cotriguaçu, Mato Grosso, and 1552 km southeast of the type locality in Ecuador.



**FIGURE 2.** Distribution of *Cruziohyala craspedopus* - Star = type-locality (Funkhouser, 1957); green circle = new record for Rondônia state; black circles = two previous records for Brazil: Castanho - AM (Lima et al. 2003) and Cotriguaçu - MT (Rodrigues et al. 2011).

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