

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Amphibia, Anura, Leptodactylidae, *Leptodactylus syphax*: New state record

Lucas Borges Martins
Wagner Rodrigues da Silva

Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, Laboratório de Sistemática, Comportamento e Ecologia de Anuros Neotropicais, CEP 38400-902. Minas Gerais, Brazil. E-mail: lucasborgesmartins@hotmail.com

Leptodactylus syphax Bokermann, 1969 is a mid-sized leptodactylid frog of the *Leptodactylus pentadactylus* species group (Heyer 1979). It is mainly known from open rocky habitats from central to northeastern Brazil, in the states of Minas Gerais, Goiás, Mato Grosso (type-locality), Piauí, and Paraíba, besides southern Paraguay and eastern Bolivia (Heyer 1979; Cardoso and Heyer 1995; Heyer 1995; De la Riva et al. 2000; Silva and Facure 2007; Uetanabaro et al. 2007; Frost 2008; Giaretta et al. 2008; Silva and Giaretta 2009).

During recent fieldworks (October 2008) at the municipality of Sacramento, state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil, in areas of rocky *Cerrado* along the Jaguara dam lake, at the Grande river (ca. 20°06' S, 47°19' W), we heard several males of *L. syphax*, near rocky drainage streams. This species was also heard calling from the other side of the river (> 10 males), at Rifaina municipality (ca. 20°07' S, 47°20' W), in the state of São Paulo. Considering that this species was previously unknown from any locality in the state of São Paulo, we noticed the importance of documenting its presence there by capturing a specimen, but by that moment it was not possible because the absence of a boat to cross the river (\pm 1 km wide).

After two months (23-27 December) we returned to the same site, but males of *Leptodactylus*

syphax were not calling. However, one adult female was collected (SVL = 70.9 mm; voucher: AAG-UFU 4400 - Herpetological collection of *Universidade Federal de Uberlândia*) at the margins of a seasonal rocky stream in a riparian forest, at the municipality of Rifaina (state of São Paulo).

Both reported localities (Sacramento and Rifaina) are located within the known range of *L. syphax* (see Figure 1); however the collected specimen represents the first record for the state of São Paulo, and fills a distribution gap of about 290 km between Uberlândia (Giaretta et al. 2008) and Alpinópolis (Cardoso and Heyer 1995), in the state of Minas Gerais.

Currently, *L. syphax* is not a threatened species (Heyer et al. 2004), but data on its geographic distribution is relevant for conservation purposes, since this species is a habitat specialist (rocky/lotic environments) (Heyer 1979; Cardoso and Heyer 1995; Silva and Giaretta 2009), and thought to have a very disruptive distribution (see maps of Heyer 1979 and Heyer 1995). Despite recent studies have been filling the gaps between populations of *L. syphax* from Central and Southeastern Brazil (e. g. Silva and Facure 2007; Uetanabaro et al. 2007; present study), the northeastern populations still seem to be isolated from the others, which could be indicative of the scarceness of field surveys in this region of Brazil.

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

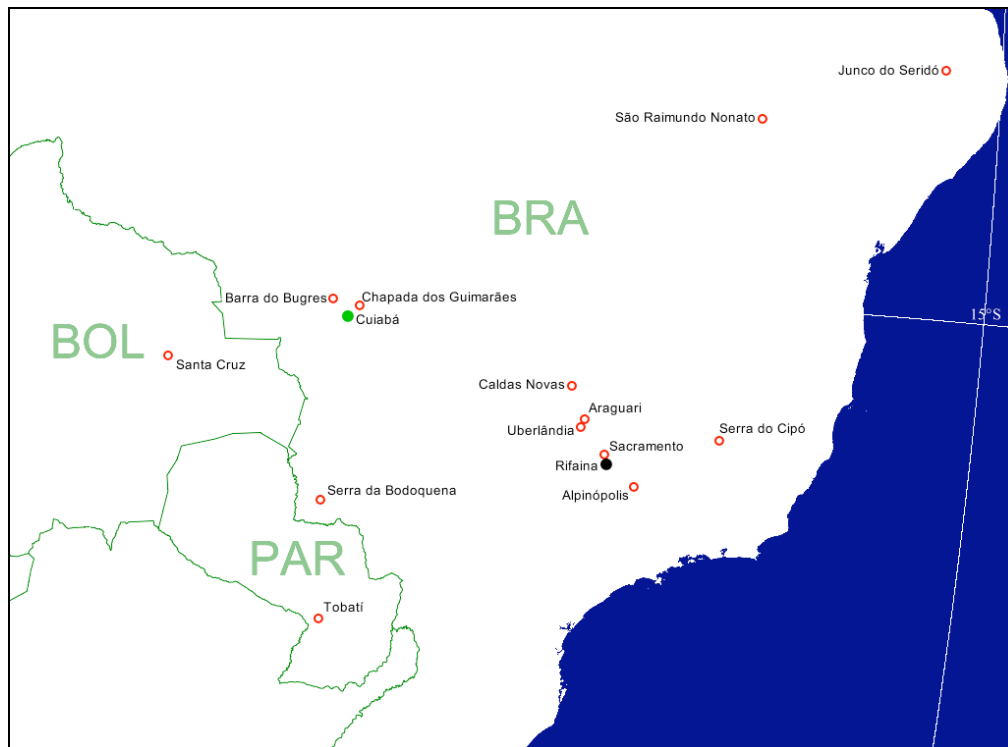


Figure 1. Known distribution of *Leptodactylus siphax*. Green: type-locality (Cuiabá, Mato Grosso). Black: municipality of Rifaina (first record for São Paulo). Red circles: data from Heyer 1979, Cardoso and Heyer 1995, Heyer 1995, De la Riva et al. 2000, Silva and Facure 2007, Uetanabaro et al. 2007, Giaretta et al. 2008, Silva and Giaretta 2009 (except for Sacramento, Minas Gerais State (present study)).

Acknowledgements

To CAPES for the fellowship conceded to WRS. Dr. Ariovaldo Giaretta critically reviewed the manuscript and confirmed the specimen identity.

Literature cited

- Cardoso, A. J. and W. R. Heyer 1995. Advertisement, aggressive, and possible seismic signals of the frog *Leptodactylus siphax* (Amphibia, Leptodactylidae). *Alytes* 13(2): 67-76.
- De la Riva, I., J. Köhler, S. Lötters and S. Reichle 2000. Ten years of research on Bolivian amphibians: updated checklist, distribution, taxonomic problems, literature and iconography. *Revista Española de Herpetología* 14: 19-164.
- Frost, D. R. 2008. *Amphibian Species of the World: an Online Reference*, v. 5.2. American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA. Accessible at: <http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.php>. Captured on November 2008.
- Giaretta, A. A., M. Menin, K. G. Facure, M. N. C. Kokubum and J. C. de Oliveira Filho 2008. Species richness, relative abundance, and habitat of reproduction of terrestrial frogs in the Triângulo Mineiro region, Cerrado biome, southeastern Brazil. *Iheringia, série Zoologia* 98(2): 181-188.
- Heyer, W. R. 1979. Systematics of the *pentadactylus* species group of the frog genus *Leptodactylus* (Amphibia: Leptodactylidae). *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology* 301: 1-43.
- Heyer, W. R. 1995. South American rocky habitat *Leptodactylus* (Amphibia, Anura, Leptodactylidae), with description of two new species. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 108(4): 695-716.
- Heyer W. R., S. Reichle, D. Silvano and L. Aquino 2004. *Leptodactylus siphax* In IUCN 2008. 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Accessible at www.iucnredlist.org. Captured on January 2008.
- Silva, W. R. and K. G. Facure 2007. *Leptodactylus siphax*. *Herpetological Review* 38(2): 215.

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Silva W. R. and A. A. Giaretta 2009. On the natural history of *Leptodactylus siphax* with comments on the evolution of reproductive features in the *L. pentadactylus* species group (Anura, Leptodactylidae). *Journal of Natural History* 43: 191-203.

Uetanabaro, M., F. L. Souza, P. Landgraf Filho, A. F. Beda and R. A. Brandão 2007. Anfíbios e répteis do

Parque Nacional da Serra da Bodoquena, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil. *Biota neotropica* 7(3): 279-289.

Received April 2009

Accepted July 2009

Published online August 2009