

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Amphibia, Anura, Leiuperidae, *Pleurodema bibroni*: Rediscovery.

Guillermo S. Natale¹

Raul Maneyro^{2,3}

¹ Centro de Investigaciones del Medio Ambiente (CIMA), Departamento de Química, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Universidad de La Plata. Calle 47 y 115, La Plata, Argentina. CONICET. E-mail: gnatale@quimica.unlp.edu.ar

² Sección Zoología Vertebrados, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República. Montevideo, Uruguay.

³ Laboratório de Herpetologia, Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia & Faculdade de Biociências, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul. Avenida Ipiranga 6681, CEP 90619-900, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil.

The genus *Pleurodema* Tschudi, 1838 consists of thirteen species distributed along southern South America (Frost 2007). Among these, *Pleurodema bibroni* inhabits Uruguay and southern Brazil (Achaval and Olmos 2003; Machado and Maltchik 2007). Although the systematics of *P. bibroni* was largely studied in the last century (Barrio and Rinaldi di Chieri 1970; Barrio 1977), it is one of the least known species amongst the amphibian fauna of Uruguay. In spite of this, this species was very common in the Uruguayan coast in the past (Langone, *in press*) and one observational record was published in recent times (Maneyro et al. 1995), the last specimens stored in scientific collections were collected in 1982. Based on these data, the species is considered as endangered at the national scale in Uruguay (Maneyro and Langone 2001; Canavero et al. 2004), while it is classified as Near Threatened (NT) at the global level (IUCN et al. 2006). The aim of this work is to report a recent record of *P. bibroni* in southeastern Uruguay.

We found the species in Barra de Valizas, Departamento de Rocha, Uruguay (34°20'05" S, 53°47'47" W), a locality situated 225 km to the east of Montevideo. The frog was collected on 29 January 2007 by the first author, and it was found active at night-time (22:00 h). The specific determination was based on comparisons with material stored in the scientific collection of the Vertebrates Zoology Collection of *Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República* (see Appendix). The specimen was found in the surroundings of a house in the small coastal town of Barra de Valizas. A few meters away from this site is a zone of coastal wetlands, typical of this region. After its capture, the animal was

maintained in captivity for a short period while photos were taken. The specimen was later sacrificed and its internal anatomy was examined in order to identify its sex. The specimen is stored in the Vertebrates Zoology Collection of *Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República* (ZVCB 16137). The present record is the first specimen stored in a scientific collection to have a photograph associated with (Figure 1). The snout-vent length of the specimen was 32.2 mm, and the average for adult specimens in the Appendix is 31.02 mm (SD = 4.07 mm, n = 35). In the gonadal examination we observed that the specimen had immature ova. Taking in mind its size and reproductive condition, we conclude that it is an adult female, and consequently that the species could breed in the area of Barra de Valizas. This fact is in agreement with the reproductive period (June to August) as suggested by Langone (1995).

The Uruguayan populations could differ from those inhabiting Brazil (Machado and Maltchik 2007), a fact that it is supported by recent morphological studies (Camargo et al. 2005). Our present record and the papers cited above would justify a re-assessment of the conservation status of the species at both national and global level.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank D. H. Podestá for taking the photographs, as well as José Langone and Rodrigo Lingnau for their valuable contributions to the manuscript. R. Maneyro acknowledges the doctoral fellowship from *Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior* (CAPES) at the *Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul*, Brazil.

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



Figure 1. Lateral view of *Pleurodema bibroni* (Amphibia, Anura, Leiuperidae), female, from Barra de Valizas, Rocha, Uruguay (ZVCB 16137). Photo by D. H. Podestá.

Literature Cited

- Achaval, F. and A. Olmos. 2003. Anfibios y Reptiles del Uruguay. 2da edición corregida y aumentada. Montevideo, Graphis Ltda. 136 p.
- Barrio, A. 1977. Aportes para la elucidación del “status” taxonómico de *Pleurodema bibroni* Tschudi y *Pleurodema kriegi* (Müller) (Amphibia, Leptodactylidae). *Physis* 37(93): 311-331.
- Barrio, A. and P. Rinaldi de Chieri. 1970. Estudios citogenéticos sobre el género *Pleurodema* y sus consecuencias evolutivas (Amphibia, Anura, Leptodactylidae). *Physis* 30(80): 309-319.
- Canavero, A., D. Arrieta, C. Borteiro, A. Camargo, I. Da Rosa, F. Kolenc, R. Maneyro, D. Nuñez, C. M. Prigioni, L. Ziegler, and J. A. Langone. 2004. Listas Rojas de los anfibios del Uruguay. I Congreso Brasileiro de Herpetología. Curitiba, Sociedade Brasileira de Herpetología. CD-Room.
- Camargo, A., R. Maneyro, and J. A. Langone. 2005. Análisis morfológico de las poblaciones uruguayas y brasileñas de *Pleurodema bibroni* Tschudi, 1838 (Anura, Leptodactylidae). *Actas, VIII Jornadas de Zoología del Uruguay*, Montevideo, 154 p.
- Frost, D. R. 2007. Amphibian Species of the World: an Online Reference. Version 5.1. Electronic Database accessible at <http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.php>. American Museum of Natural History, New York. Captured on November 2007.
- IUCN, Conservation International and NatureServe. 2006. Global Amphibian Assessment. Electronic Database accessible at www.globalamphibians.org. Captured on November 2007.
- Langone, J. A. 1995. Ranas y sapos del Uruguay. Montevideo, Uruguay. Museo Damaso Antonio Larrañaga, Serie de Divulgación (5). 123 p.

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Langone, J. A. [Conservation of] Amphibia of Uruguay. In H. Heatwole (ed.), *Amphibian Biology*. Vol VIII, *in press*.

Machado, I. F. and L. Maltchik. 2007. Check-list da diversidade de anuros no Rio Grande do Sul (Brasil) e proposta de classificação para as formas larvais. *Neotropical Biology and Conservation* 2(2): 101-116.

Maneyro, R., F. Forni, and M. Santos. 1995. Los anfibios del departamento de Rocha. Montevideo, PROBIDES, Serie Divulgación Técnica (1). 24 p.

Maneyro, R. and J. A. Langone. 2001. Categorización de los anfibios del Uruguay. *Cuadernos de Herpetología* 15(2): 107-118.

Received December 2007

Accepted January 2008

Published online March 2008

Appendix

Examined specimens of *Pleurodema bibroni* from the scientific collection of Vertebrates Zoology Collection of *Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República*, Uruguay.

ZVCB 185: Balneario Atlántida, Canelones; ZVCB 186: Bañados de Carrasco, Canelones; ZVCB 377: Malvín, Montevideo; ZVCB 380: Parque Nacional de Carrasco, Montevideo; ZVCB 479: Camino Carrasco, Montevideo; ZVCB 605: Arroyo Minas Viejas, Lavalleja; ZVCB 679: Punta José Ignacio, Maldonado; ZVCB 684: Malvín, Montevideo; ZVCB 685: Ciudad de Canelones, Canelones; ZVCB 803: Tapes, Lavalleja; ZVCB 919: Arroyo Tapes de Godoy, Lavalleja; ZVCB 1791: Arequita, Lavalleja; ZVCB 2025: Camino Carrasco, Montevideo; ZVCB 2076: Barra Arroyo Valizas, Rocha; ZVCB 3159: Punta del Este, Maldonado; ZVCB 3946: Autódromo Nacional, San José; ZVCB 11064-73: Camino Carrasco, Montevideo; ZVCB 11077-8: Bañados de Carrasco, Montevideo; ZVCB 11079: Camino Carrasco, Montevideo; ZVCB 11080: Tapes, Lavalleja; ZVCB 11082-6: Balneario Las Toscas, Canelones.