



A new species of rainfrog of the genus *Diasporus* (Anura: Eleutherodactylidae) from Serranía de Tabasará, Panama

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Abstract

A new frog species of the genus *Diasporus* is described from Llano Tugrú, Corregimiento de Peña Blanca, Distrito de Müna, Comarca Ngöbe-Buglé, Serranía de Tabasará, west-central Panama, around 1700 m a.s.l. The new species differs from all other members of the genus by a combination of morphological characters, in particular, its large size, its dorsal skin texture and its bright coloration. This species is the largest species in the genus *Diasporus*; it is an inhabitant of cloud forest, living among mosses and bromeliads. All specimens were found between the understory ($\approx 1\text{--}2$ m) and the mid-canopy ($\approx 2\text{--}10$ m). The call of this species consists of single, short notes that are reminiscent of a “whistle” and range from 2.0 to 2.7 kHz. Herein we present, besides morphological data used to describe the new species, the description of the male mating call, a distribution map, and brief ecological notes.

Key words: *Diasporus igneus* sp. nov., advertisement call, natural history, Comarca Ngöbe Buglé, cloud forest

Resumen

Una nueva especie de rana del género *Diasporus* es descrita de Llano Tugrú, Corregimiento de Peña Blanca, Distrito de Müna, Comarca Ngöbe-Buglé, Serranía de Tabasará, centro occidental de Panamá, alrededor de 1700 m.s.n.m. La nueva especie difiere de todos los otros miembros del género por una combinación de caracteres morfológicos, en particular, su gran tamaño, la textura de su piel dorsal y su brillante coloración. Esta especie es la más grande del género *Diasporus*; es un habitante del bosque nuboso, viviendo entre musgos y bromelias. Todos los especímenes fueron encontrados entre el sotobosque ($\approx 1\text{--}2$ m) y el estrato medio del bosque ($\approx 2\text{--}10$ m). El canto de esta especie consiste en una nota corta parecida a la de un “silbido que varía entre 2.0 y 2.7 kHz. Aquí presentamos, junto con los datos morfológicos usados por la descripción de la nueva especie, la descripción del canto nupcial del macho, un mapa de distribución y notas breves de su ecología.

Palabras claves: *Diasporus* sp. nov., canto nupcial, historia natural, Comarca Ngöbe Buglé, bosque nuboso

Introduction

Panama is home to 199 species of amphibians (Jaramillo *et al.* 2010). Auth (1994) listed 172 for the country, which means that 27 additional species have been found or described from the country in a relatively short period (Jaramillo *et al.* 2010; Köhler 2011; see also Frost 2011). Nonetheless, the knowledge of Panamanian amphibian diversity is still fragmentary and substantial research remains to be done to produce a fuller picture.

The west-central Panamanian highlands are dominated by the Serranía del Tabasará (Fig. 1). Most of this area is occupied by indigenous people of the ethnic groups *Ngöbe* and *Buglé*, who inhabit villages from the lowlands to elevations below 1100 m.a.s.l. At higher elevations, the landscape has been transformed into crop and cattle-ranching areas. Throughout the ridge at the continental divide, the vegetation is almost undisturbed. The Serranía de Tabasará has only been surveyed recently for its herpetofauna, which has rendered remarkable results, including