

FrogLog

www.amphibians.org

Volume 22, number 2

Promoting Conservation, Research and
Education for the World's Amphibians

Peru National Park
Breaks Biodiversity
Record

Rediscovery of a
“Lost” Andean Toad

Frog Friendly
Coffee

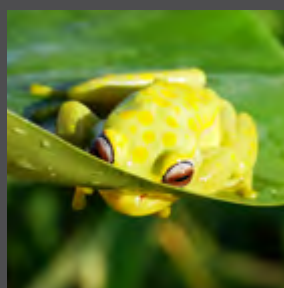
Recent Publications

And Much More!

Ceratophrys cornuta is one of many amphibians living on the forest floor in Manu's lowland rainforest. Photo by J. Jacobs.



Saving
Salamanders



The Story Behind
the Photo

Destruction of Type Locality, New Records and Distribution of *Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis*

By Jorge A. Céspedes & Ana M. Arias



Distribution of *Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis* in Argentina.

Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis was described from the “Perichón” locality, in the capital department of Corrientes province of Argentina and the Itati locality, in Itati department. Both localities are located in the northwest triangle of the Corrientes province. This species, like other species of the *Melanophryniscus* genre, presents very restricted distribution and scarce populations.

For this reason, this species was considered as “Vulnerable” in “Categorización de Anfibios de Argentina”(1) and in “Categorización del estado de Conservación de los anfibios de la República Argentina” (2). In “The conservation status of Argentinian amphibians. Collected DAPTF (Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force) Working Group Reports: Ten Years” (3) and in “Threatened Amphibians of the World” (4) the species was determined as “Insufficiently known.”

This species was considered vulnerable (5) consider the species as “Vulnerable” and in the 2013 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2013.1 Version (6); it is considered as “Near Threatened.”

In the present work, we report voucher specimens for four new localities: Ramada Paso in the Itati department, for the San Luis del Palmar city in the same name department, for the Empedrado local-

ity, Empedrado department and for the “San Juan Mini” farm in the Concepcion department. All of the mentioned localities are located west to the Ibera System, in the northwest triangle of the Corrientes province (Map 1) (Appendage 1), the data for the Beron de Astrada and Bella Vista localities corresponds only to auditory records (7).

This information acquires great relevance for the conservation of this species due to the recent destruction of the Perichon locality’s natural environment (Fig. 1 and 2), from which the species was described. Both short and floodable grasslands and woods mogotes were swept, with the goal of selling the lands at low prices and for the construction of the “Corsodromo” of Corrientes city with touristic goals (Fig. 3, 4, 5 and 6).

This species, more of a walking than a jumping one, feeds primarily on formicids and collembolan (Dure and Kehr, 2006). During mating season, males sing in the ground, near bodies of semi-permanent water all day long, after strong storms, waiting for females to perform amplexus and, along with them, head to the water body. The eggs are disposed of at the bottom of water bodies of no more than 10 centimeters deep, where embryos and larvae develop.



Fig. 1 and 2. Natural environment of the type locality of *Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis*.

Laboratorio de Herpetología, Anatomía Comparada de los Cordados, Departamento de Biología. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura. Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Av. Libertad 5470, CP 3400, Campus Universitario Corrientes, Corrientes, Argentina.



Fig. 3 and 4. *Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis* type locality destroyed by clearcutting for the construction of the Corredor de Corrientes city, Argentina.

This anuran, of small size and aposematic coloration (Fig. 7 and 8), has not suffered commercial extractions as its sister species *Melanophryniscus fulvoguttatus* and *Melanophryniscus klappenbachii* and is considered as “Threatened” (5), along with the destruction

of its habitat, given that also Itati, San Luis del Palmar and Concepcion localities have grown and been urbanized in the last years.

Most of the species of this genre have, as *M. cupreuscapularis*, very restricted distributions, suffering, in Argentina, the same situation due to the deterioration of their type localities and natural environment: *Melanophryniscus estebani*, in La Carolina, caused by the village’s old mine, and *Melanophryniscus* sp. of Sierra de la Ventana, located south of Buenos Aires province, due to the disappearance of the mountain range because of the commercial use of the rocks and the large amount of garbage that comes from the large cities of the province.



Fig. 5 and 6. *Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis* type locality destroyed by logging for the lands sale at low costs, Corrientes city, Argentina.

References

1. Lavilla E.O., M.L. Ponssa (Coordinadores), D. Baldo, N. Basso, A. Bosso, J. Céspedes, J.C. Chebez, J. Faivovich, L. Ferrari, R. Lajmanovich, J.A. Langone, P. Peltzer, C. Úbeda, M. Vaira y F. Vera Candioti. In: Categorización de los Anfibios de Argentina. Editado por Lavilla, Richards y Scrocchi, y la Asociación Herpetológica Argentina (Categorización de los Anfibios y Reptiles de la República Argentina. Asociación Herpetológica Argentina. 97 p. (2000).
2. Schaefer E.F., M.I. Dure y J.A. Céspedes. In: Asociación Herpetológica Argentina. Categorización del estado de conservación de los Anfibios y Reptiles de la República Argentina. *Cuadernos de Herpetología* 26 (Sup.) pp. 131-214. (2012).
3. Lavilla E.O., M.L. Ponssa (Coordinadores), D. Baldo, N. Basso, A. Bosso, J. Céspedes, J.C. Chebez, J. Faivovich, L. Ferrari, R. Lajmanovich, J.A. Langone, P. Peltzer, C. Úbeda, M. Vaira y F. Vera Candioti. The conservation status of Argentinian amphibians. Collected DAPTF Working Group Reports: Ten Years in Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. USA. (Declining Amphibians Populations Task Force (DAPTF). Open University, Milton Keynes. pp. 50-54. (2006).
4. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.1. (IUCN: www.iucnredlist.org). (2013).
5. Lavilla E.O. and H. Heatwole. Status of Amphibian conservation and decline in Argentina. In Heatwole, H., Ed., Surrey Beatty & Sons, Australia. (Amphibian Biology. Volume 9. Status of Decline of Amphibians. Western Hemisphere. Part 1. Paraguay, Chile and Argentina. pp. 30-78. (2010).
6. Céspedes J. and J. Langone. In S. Stuart, M. Hoffmann, J. Chanson, N. Cox, R. Berridge, P. Ramani, B. Young and IUCN (Editors). Conservation International. *Threatened Amphibians of the World*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona and Gland & Arlington. 759 p. (2008).
7. Zaracho, V.H., J.A. Céspedes, B.B. Álvarez y E.O. Lavilla. *Guía de Identificación de Anfibios de la Provincia de Corrientes (Argentina)*. Editado por: FUNDACIÓN “MIGUEL LILLO” y UNNE. 182 p. (2012).
8. Dure M.I. and A. I. Kehr. *Herpetological Review* 37(3): 378. (2006).



Fig. 7. Dorsal view of the Holotype of *Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis*.

Appendage 1. *Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis* specimens used for this work

UNNEC 002137 – 002147 Col.: Alberto Silva, Camba Punta, Corrientes Capital. 29-12-1989; UNNEC 002883 Col.: Gilberto Avalos, San Luis del Palmar, Corrientes. 14-06-1993; UNNEC 003049, 003163, 003182, 003183, 004124, 004218, 004219, 004221 Col.: Céspedes, Jorge and Roberto Aguirre, Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 25-09-1994; UNNEC 004853 – 004875. Col.: Céspedes, Jorge. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 01-05-1996; UNNEC 005232 – 005233. Col.: Céspedes, Jorge. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 06-02-1997; UNNEC 005284 – 005287. Col.: Morand, Mariana and Céspedes, Jorge. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 25-05-1997; UNNEC 005371 – 005384, Col.: Céspedes, Jorge. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 15-04-1997; UNNEC 005513, 005516 – 005518. Col.: Morand, M. and Céspedes, J. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 25-04-1997; UNNEC 005600 – 005601. Col.: Morand, M. and Céspedes, J. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 25-05-1997; UNNEC 005740. Col.: Morand, M., Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 12-02-1998; UNNEC 005741–005742. Col.: Morand, M. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 01-04-1998; UNNEC 005743. Col.: Morand, M. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 24-03-1998; UNNEC 005745 – 005746. Col.: Morand, M. and Céspedes, J. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 16-04-1997; UNNEC 005759 – 005762. Col.: Morand, M. and Céspedes, J. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 22-12-1997; UNNEC 005826 – 005831. Col.: Céspedes, J. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 06-04-1998; UNNEC 005962 –005963. Col.: Morand, M. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 12-02-1998; UNNEC 005964 –005965. Col.: Morand, M. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 04-03-1998; UNNEC 005966 –005967. Col.: Morand, M. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 04-03-1998; UNNEC 006727. Col.: Céspedes, J.; Barboza, Noelia and Sandoval, María. Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 17-09-1990; UNNEC 007322 – 007324. Col.: Céspedes, J. Empedrado, Empedrado, Corrientes. 15-04-1998; UNNEC 008074 – 008080. Col.: Gilberto Avalos, San Luis del Palmar, Corrientes. 14-06-1993; UNNEC 008111. Col.: Céspedes, J. and R. Aguirre,

Perichón, Corrientes, Capital. 24-05-1994; UNNEC 010218, 010222. Col.: Falcione, Camila and Ingaramo, Maria, Estancia San Juan Miní, Concepción, Corrientes. 26-10-2008; UNNEC 010542. Col.: Ingaramo, M., Ramada Paso, Itatí, Corrientes. 29-01-2009; UNNEC 010652 – 010653. Col.: Ingaramo, M., Estancia San Juan Miní, Concepción, Corrientes. 26-11-2009.



Fig. 8. Ventral view of the Holotype of *Melanophryniscus cupreuscapularis*.