

AMPHIBIA: ANURA: LEPTODACTYLIDAE

ELEUTHERODACTYLUS CHLOROPHENAX

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Cunningham, C.A., R. Powell, and S. Blair Hedges. 1998.
Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax.

Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax Schwartz

Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax Schwartz 1976:168. Type locality, “~ 2 km S Castillon, 1163 m, Département du Sud [= Dépt. de la Grand’Anse], Haiti.” Holotype, Carnegie Museum (CM) 56833 (original number, Albert Schwartz Field Series V25120), an adult male, collected 26 June 1971, by native collector (not examined by authors).

Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax: Joglar 1989:389. *Lapsus*.

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** *Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax* is a moderately sized frog of the *inoptatus* group; maximum SVL in males is 59 mm (Schwartz and Henderson 1991), in females 77 mm (Hedges and Thomas 1987). The dorsum is either green or tan with some green areas and almost without any distinct pattern; weakly defined dark scapular spots and dorsolateral lines are present in some individuals. The throat is dark and the venter mottled with gray. Concealed surfaces of thighs are marbled with brown proximally, but are solid brown distally. The shank bears three dark crossbands. The sides bear scattered tubercles, the banded portions of the crus are spinous (in contrast with the rest of the crus), and a weak spine is present on the upper eyelid. The digital discs are very large (about 2/3 size of the tympanum). The internal vocal sac is single.

• **Diagnosis.** *Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax* may be distinguished from other members of the *inoptatus* group by the combination of large size, a smooth, green or green and tan dorsum, large digital discs not notched medially, and dark crural crossbands (as opposed to chevrons).

• **Descriptions.** In addition to the original by Schwartz (1976), an abbreviated description may be found in Schwartz and Henderson (1991). Hedges and Thomas (1987) described the vocal sac, and Lynch (1996) the cranium.

Although the call has not been recorded, Hedges and Thomas (1987), from a single male, described it as “similar to that of *E. nortoni*,” consisting of a single note, rising in frequency, and sounding like “urp” or “wherp.”

• **Illustrations.** Line drawings of the holotype and a dorsal view of the right hand were included by Schwartz (1976). Black and white photographs are in Hedges and Thomas (1987) and Hedges (1989). Line drawings of dorsal, lateral, and ventral views of the skull are in Lynch (1996).

• **Distribution.** This Hispaniolan South Island endemic (Schwartz 1980) is known only from the Massif de la Hotte in Haiti, where it occurs in hardwood and pine uplands at elevations from 990–1290 m, often in caves. The range was illustrated in Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Schwartz (1976) described the species and assigned it to the *inoptatus* group, an assignment with which Hedges and Thomas (1987) and Joglar (1989) agreed. Based on molecular and some morphological data, Hedges (1989)



Figure 1. An adult female *Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax* (USNM 257730) from limestone hills in the vicinity of Plain Formon, 1,000 m (photograph by SBH).

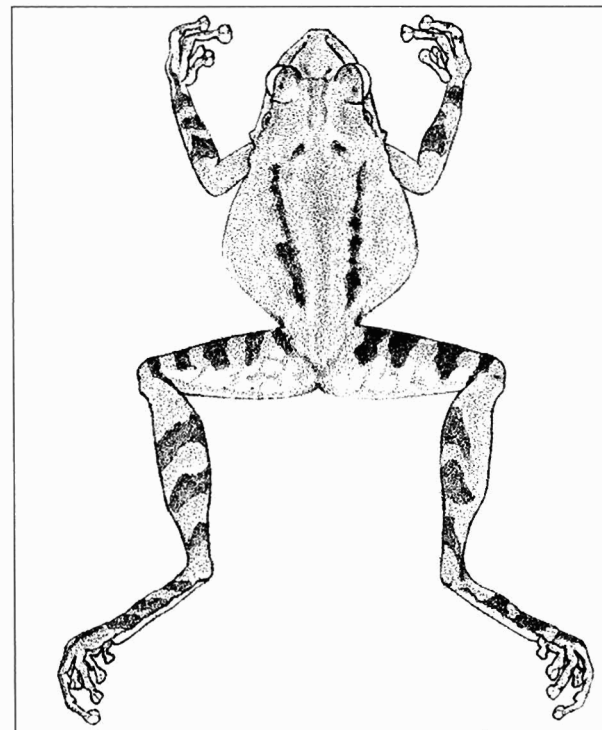
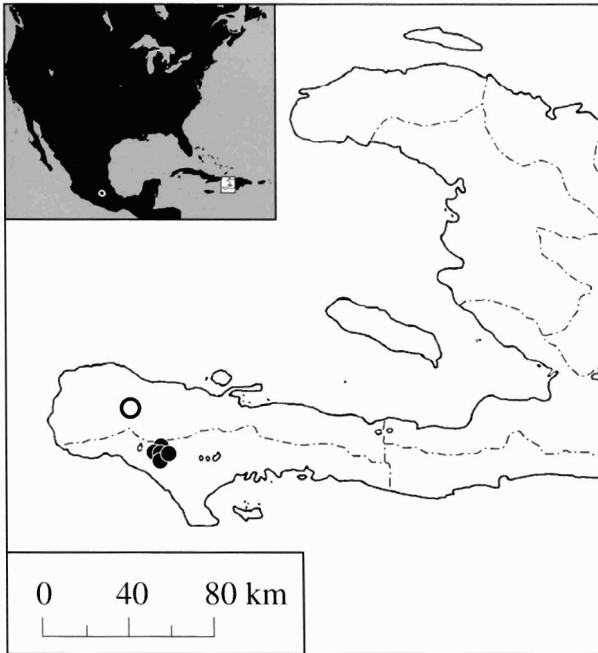


Figure 2. The holotype of *Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax* (CM 56833) (from Schwartz 1976).

erected the subgenus *Pelorius* for the six species previously assigned to the *inoptatus* group, and restricted the latter group name to include only *E. chlorophenax*, *E. inoptatus*, and *E. nortoni*. The remaining three species of *Pelorius* were placed in the *ruthae* group. Duellman (1993), Lynch (1996), and Lynch and Duellman (1997) recognized the subgenus *Pelorius*, although Lynch (1996) questioned its monophyly. Hedges and Thomas (1987) described the single-note call and some aspects of natural history in comparing *E. chlorophenax* to *E. parapelates* and other members of the *inoptatus* group.

The species is included in checklists, guides, and keys by Schwartz et al. (1978), Henderson and Schwartz (1984),



Map. Range of *Eleutherodactylus chlorophenax* (modified from Schwartz and Henderson 1991). The circle marks the type locality, dots indicate other known records.

Henderson et al. (1984), Frost (1985), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988), Franz and Cordier (1986), and Powell et al. (1996).

Frank and Ramus (1995) provided a common name, False Green Robber Frog, which we prefer not to use.

• **Etymology.** The name *chlorophenax* is derived from the Greek for “green” and “imposter;” the former refers to the most common dorsal ground color and the latter is an allusion to the resemblance of this species to *E. inoptatus*.

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Carol A. Cunningham, Department of Biology, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 (current address: Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, MO 64141), **Robert Powell**, Department of Natural Sciences, Avila College, Kansas City, MO 64145, and **S. Blair Hedges**, Department of Biology and Institute of Molecular Evolutionary Genetics, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802.

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