

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Lynch, J.D. and M.C. Ardila-Robayo. 1993. *Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus*.

Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus
Lynch and Myers

Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus Lynch and Myers, 1983:551. Type-locality, "Rio Anchicayá, 8 km W Danubio, Departamento de Valle del Cauca, Colombia, 300 m." Holotype, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History (KU) 168518, an adult female collected by William E. Duellman on 13 June 1975 (examined by authors).

• **Content.** No subspecies recognized.

• **Definition and Diagnosis.** *Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus* is a large species (adult males 37.6-54.5 mm SVL, adult females 74.7-88.2 mm SVL) of the *rugulosus* group of the subgenus *Craugastor*. *Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus* has extensive webbing of the toes (to the disks on all toes except the 4th [modal toe webbing, I 1 - 1 II 1 - 1 III 1 - 2 IV 2 - 1 V]) and an inner tarsal fold. This species could be confused only with *E. anatipes* which lacks an inner tarsal fold. The skin of the dorsum bears many small, low warts, but is never spiculate. The dorsum is olive with dark brown markings (sometimes tinged with rust). The posterior surfaces of the thighs are marbled yellow and brown. The throat is cream with gray or brown stippling (and a pale median line), and the venter is bright yellow in adults but creamy white in juveniles. Between 38 and 55% of individuals have a thin pale yellow vertebral line.

So far as is known, *E. zygodactylus* is mute. Males have vocal slits and large, white nuptial pads.

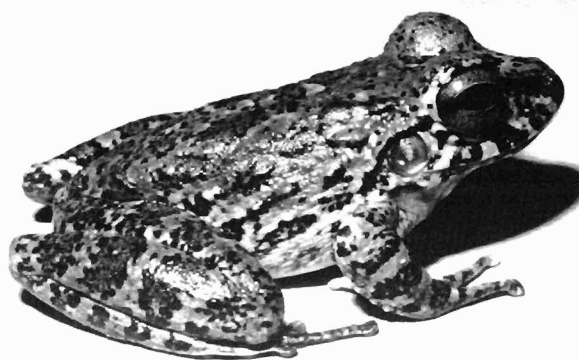


Figure 1. A juvenile female *Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus* (ICNMHN 13143, 72.1 mm SVL) (from a kodachrome by J.D. Lynch).

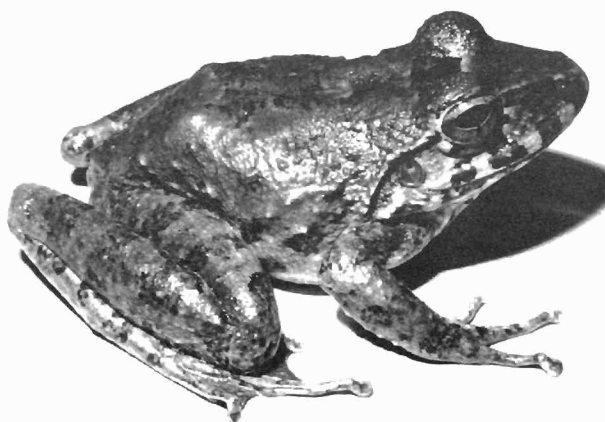
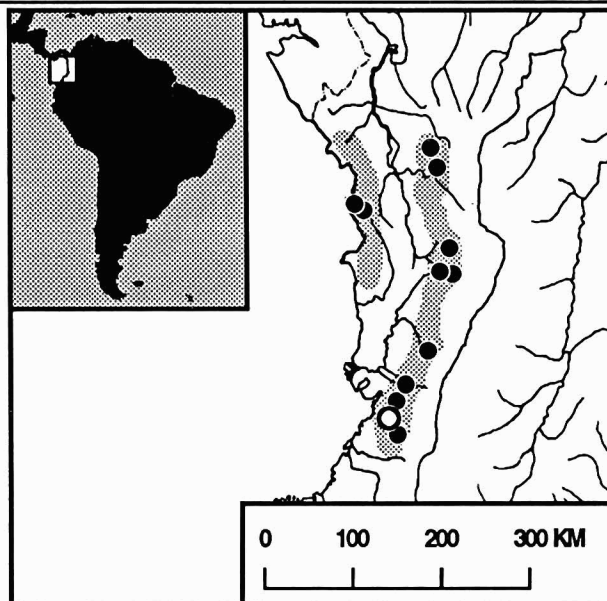


Figure 2. An adult male *Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus* (ICNMHN 13144, 55.0 mm SVL) (from a kodachrome by J.D. Lynch).



Map. Distribution of *Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus* in northwestern South America. The large, open circle denotes the type-locality. Other known localities are indicated by solid circles.

• **Description.** The only description is the original by Lynch and Myers (1983).

• **Illustrations.** Lynch and Myers (1983) provided a black and white photograph.

• **Distribution.** *Eleutherodactylus zygodactylus* is found in the lowlands of western Colombia from the Baudó region south to the western base of the Farallones de Cali. At the southernmost locality, *E. zygodactylus* is sympatric with *E. anatipes*, its presumed sister species. Lynch and Myers (1983) suggested that the species might occur only below 800 m, but we have found many additional records of the species and can confirm that it occurs to 1480 m. Most of the records flank the western base of the Cordillera Occidental and the absence of the species from the lowlands associated with the Río Atrato and Río San Juan is probably real.

• **Fossil record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** The species was first mentioned by Lynch (1979) as species Z in a distributional summary for the frogs of the forests west of the Andes. Lynch and Myers (1983) provided a complete description for the form. Savage et al. (1988) allocated the species to the *rugulosus* group of *Eleutherodactylus*. Otherwise, the name appears only in lists of species. Cochran and Goin (1970) confused this species in their samples of *E. anomalus* and *E. raniformis*.

• **Etymology.** The name *zygodactylus* is a noun in apposition, from the Greek *zygos* (yolk) and *daktylos* (toes), in allusion to the nearly fully webbed toes.

• **Comment.** The distribution of this species is centered in one of the wettest regions of the world. The native vegetation of the region is forest and *E. zygodactylus* is usually found along streams in dense forests. In some areas (e. g., western Antioquia), the frog persists for at least several years along streams through pastures where little remains of the native forest. In these settings, reproduction (or recruitment) continues as evidenced by a full spectrum of sizes of frogs.

Although the species is relatively abundant in its habitat, little evidence of reproduction has been found. An amplexant pair was collected in April 1993 and one "guarded" egg clutch was found on 12 August 1982. The egg clutch and tending female (UVC 7112) were found on the ground beside a rock along the trail in a very wet site. The female was 81.5 mm SVL and was spent. She was guarding a

clutch of 74 eggs, 7.5-8.3 mm in diameter and five or six empty, decomposing capsules. The embryos were relatively advanced with obvious limb buds, tail, and eyes.

Literature Cited

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