

AMPHIBIA: SALIENTIA: LEPTODACTYLIDAE *ELEUTHERODACTYLUS FLAVESCENS*

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

SCHWARTZ, ALBERT. 1982. *Eleutherodactylus flavescens*.

Eleutherodactylus flavescens Noble

Eleutherodactylus flavescens Noble, 1923a:2. Type-locality, "bushes along stream bank, La Bracita [=Los Bracitos], Prov. Pacificador [=Duarte Province], Dominican Republic." Holotype, Amer. Mus. Natur. Hist. 11402, adult female, collected by G. K. Noble on 8 August 1922 (not examined by author).

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.
- DEFINITION. A species of the *auriculatus* group of Antillean *Eleutherodactylus* characterized by the combination of moderate

size (males to 31 mm, females to 41 mm snout-vent length), dorsum distinctly warty; dorsal ground color yellowish, yellowish green, or yellowish tan, marbled or mottled with dark brown to black and without distinctive dorsal markings except for a dark fragmented interocular bar or triangle; a dark fragmented scapular W; and without leg bars; venter pearly gray and with at times some scattered dark brown mottling along the lower jaw margin; concealed surfaces of hindlimbs dark gray to black; vocal sac in males yellow and contrasting with the ventral color; digital discs notched medially; and tibia/snout-vent length ratio high (46.9–58.9% in males, 48.5–58.3% in females).

- DESCRIPTIONS. Noble (1923a) and Cochran (1941:37–39) described morphological and chromatic features. Mertens (1939:34) briefly noted the coloration of his specimens and provided some structural details. Goin (1959:135) gave the number of maxillary teeth in five specimens.

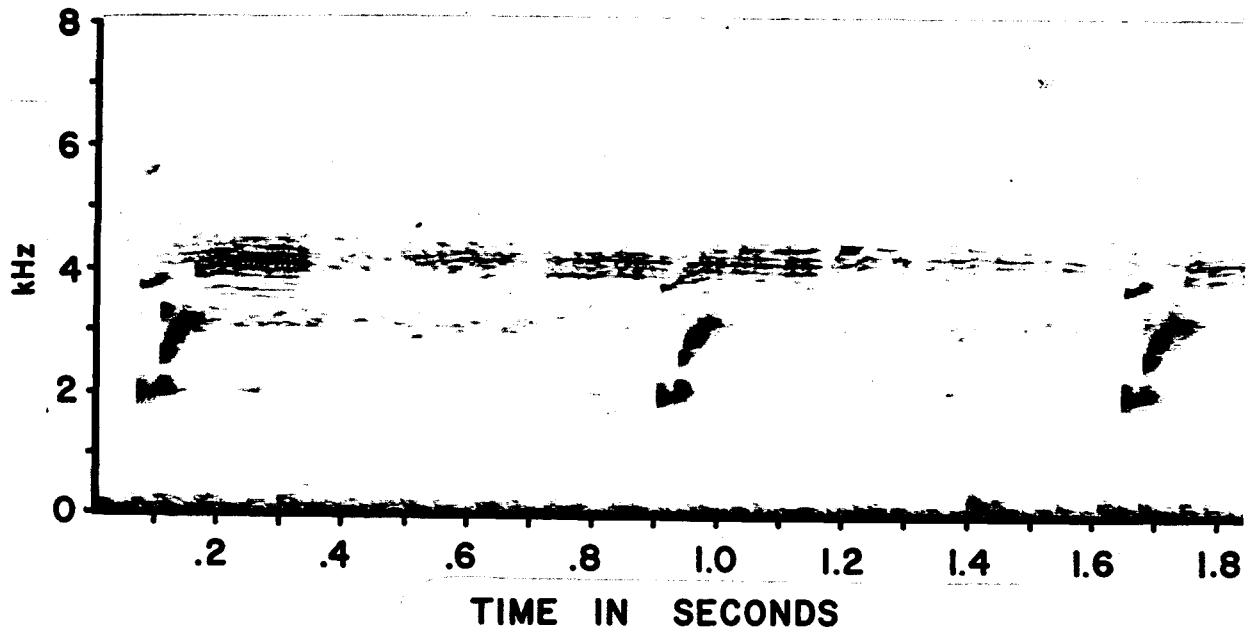
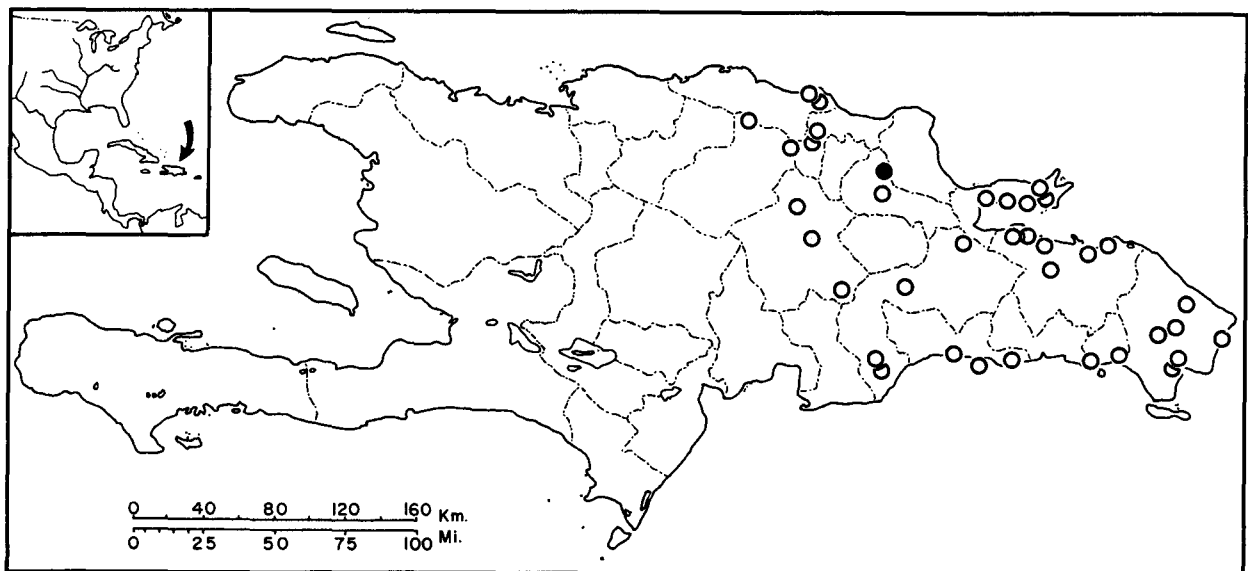


FIGURE. Audiospectrogram of call of *Eleutherodactylus flavescens*: 4 km NE Sanchez, Samaná Prov., República, 22 Feb. 1975, air 22.3°C Specimen RC 40313, recording courtesy R. Crombie, National Museum of Natural History, Washington.



MAP. Distribution of *Eleutherodactylus flavescens* on Hispaniola. Solid circle marks type-locality, open circles indicate other localities.

● **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Cochran (1941:38) presented a drawing of the dorsal pattern, as well as line drawings of the ventral surface of a hand and foot, side of the head, and interior of the buccal cavity. Mertens (1939:pl. 5) showed a photograph of a living specimen in a characteristic pose.

● **DISTRIBUTION.** Schwartz and Thomas (1975:21) summarized the geographic distribution as: Hispaniola; eastern República Dominicana, from Sosúa on the north coast south to Pico Diego de Ocampo and the Cordillera Septentrional, through eastern La Vega Province (9 km SW La Vega; 11.1 km W Jayaco; 9.4 mi SW Piedra Blanca), to southern San Cristóbal Province (southeast of El Cacao; northwest of Cambita Garabitas), and eastward including the Península de Samaná and the extreme eastern end of the island (Punta Cana; Boca de Yuma). Altitudinal distribution is from sea level to 3000 ft (914 m) but the species is reported from Pico Diego de Ocampo, 4122 ft (1256 m) and occurs at about 3112 ft (949 m) at the type-locality.

● **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

● **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** In addition to the citations previously noted, Noble (1923b) and Hassler (1930) gave data on the ecology and Schwartz (1969) commented upon the two-note voice and placed *E. flavescens* in a frame of reference with other Antillean members of the *auriculatus* group. Mertens (1939) also gave brief ecological data for the species.

● **REMARKS.** *Eleutherodactylus flavescens* is primarily a mesophile, being encountered most frequently in wooded situations; Mertens (1939) reported taking an individual in mangroves. Males vocalize from above-ground situations—trees, shrubs, and bushes—up to 10 feet above the ground and perhaps even higher. The bright yellow vocal sac is bubble-like and often reveals the presence of the frogs more readily than the yellowish green, olive, or yellowish tan dorsal coloration which matches the color of the leaves upon which they sit while calling. Branches, stems, and even vertical trunks of saplings or trees are used as calling sites. Occasionally *E. flavescens* may be encountered adjacent to or even on wet vertical rock faces in mountain streams in association with *Hyla heilprini* Noble. On the other hand, *E. flavescens* may

often be encountered in coastal situations, within a few feet of the ocean. Calling sites in such situations include not only vegetation but limestone boulders and low cliff faces.

● **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *flavescens* is from the Latin *flavescere* (to become yellow or golden colored), in allusion to the dorsal ground color.

COMMENT

Specimens of *Eleutherodactylus flavescens* have been taken under the auspices of National Science Foundation grants G-7977 and B-023603.

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