

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

**Amphibia, Anura, Bufonidae,
Melanophryniscus moreirae: distribution
extension**

Renato Matos Marques¹
Paul François Colas-Rosas²
Luís Felipe Toledo²
Célio F. B. Haddad²

¹Fauna Pro Assessoria e Consultoria Ambiental Ltda. Av. 34-A, 467, Rio Claro, CEP 13506-670, São Paulo, Brasil.

²Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Rio Claro, Caixa Postal 199, CEP 13506-970, São Paulo, Brasil; E-mail: toledolf2@yahoo.com.

During a field expedition in June 2004 at the municipality of Queluz, state of São Paulo, southeastern Brazil (S 22°25'44", W 44°50'10"; 2,570 m above sea level) we found 5 individuals of *Melanophryniscus moreirae* (Figure 1). They were moving on the ground above a flagstone, in the middle of a water trickle in a high altitude valley close to the border of São Paulo and Minas Gerais states, near to the "Pedra da Mina" Peak (ca. 2,800 m), one of the highest peaks of Brazil. One specimen of *M. moreirae* was collected and deposited at the Célio F. B. Haddad anuran collection, Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil (CFBH 8023).

This species was previously known only from areas of high altitude (from 1,800 to 2,400 m) near temporary swamps in the "Parque Nacional do Itatiaia", municipality of Itamonte, state of Minas Gerais (Bokermann 1967; Guix et al. 1998). Our observation extends its distribution in about 19 km southwestern and provides the first account of the species for the state of São Paulo. Recently, special attention has been recommended for the conservation of this species, since it has a restrict distributional range and occurs in an areas where amphibian declines have been reported (Eterovick et al. 2005). Eterovick et al. (2005), based on Guix et al. (1996), suggested a population decline in range and abundance for this species. However, we observed dozens of individuals of an abundant and apparently healthy

population in the Parque Nacional do Itatiaia, Itamonte, state of Minas Gerais (C. F. B. Haddad, unpublished data) and we are also reporting a distributional extension of the species range. Therefore, the suggestion of inclusion of *M. moreirae* in the IUCN threatened species list, as made by Guix et al. (1998), and its consequent inclusion in the state of Minas Gerais red list (Bernardes 1998), seemed to be precipitated. Our report is another typical example of the poor status of knowledge of the distribution and abundance of the Brazilian anuran fauna (see discussion in Pimenta et al. 2005). The present report may also reduce the concern about extinction of *Melanophryniscus moreirae*. Further studies and surveys are needed to assess the species real status of conservation and we propose the inclusion of the species in the Data Deficient category.



Figure 1. Adult male of *Melanophryniscus moreirae* (Bufonidae) photographed at Parque Nacional do Itatiaia, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Cynthia P. A. Prado, Luciana B. Nascimento, and Paula Eterovick for revising and discussing previous versions of the manuscript. FAPESP (BIOTA proc. no. 01/13341-3) and CNPq provided grants to the Herpetology Lab and scholarships.

Literature Cited

Bernardes, A. T. 1998. *Melanophryniscus moreirae*. Pp. 451-452. In A. B. M. Machado, G. A. B. Fonseca, R. B. Machado, L. M. S. Aguiar, and L. V. Lins (eds), Livro vermelho de espécies ameaçadas de extinção da fauna

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

- de Minas Gerais. Belo Horizonte. Fundação Biodiversitas.
- Bokermann, W. C. A. 1967. Observações sobre *Melanophryniscus moreirae* (Mir. Rib.) (Amphibia - Brachycephalidae). Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciências 39 (2):301-306.
- Eterovick, P. C., A. C. O. Q. Carnaval, D. M. Borges-Nojosa, D. L. Silvano, and I. Sazima. 2005. Amphibian declines in Brazil: an overview. Biotropica 37 (2):166-179.
- Guix, J. C., A. Montori, G. A. Llorente, M. A. Carreto, and X. Santos. 1998. Natural history and conservation of bufonids in four atlantic rainforest areas of southeastern Brazil. Herpetological Natural History 6 (1):1-12.
- Pimenta, B., C. F. B. Haddad, L. B. Nascimento, C. A. G. Cruz, and J. P. Pomba Jr. 2005. Comment on "status and trends of amphibian declines and extinctions worldwide". Science, 309: 1999. Available at: www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/309/5743/1999b.

Received May 2006

Accepted June 2006

Published Online June 2006