

LEPTODACTYLUS LONGIROSTRIS (ANURA: LEPTODACTYLIDAE): ADVERTISEMENT CALL, TADPOLE, ECOLOGICAL AND DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES¹

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(With 5 figures)

Heyer (1978) recently summarized available information on *Leptodactylus longirostris* Boulenger, 1882, and commented on the uncertain provenance of the types. Boulenger's specimens were ostensibly from Santarém, Brasil (an Amazonian Port), and differed in several minor respects from other *L. longirostris*, a species considered to be centered on the Guiana Shield. Santarém was suggested as a shipping port for material collected further north on the Rio Mapuera or Rio Trombetas. This was a plausible idea since Santarém, at the juncture of the Rio Tapajós and Rio Amazonas, was a common port call for early Amazonian explorers. Recently, however, *L. longirostris* was rediscovered at the type locality and other sites 250-300 km further south on the Rio Tapajós.

Herein, we compare the newly collected Amazonian frogs with samples from the Guianan Shield, describe larval morphology, compare the call structure of Amazonia and Guianan frogs, and present new ecological observations.

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION

During a survey of the amphibians of the Parque Nacional da Amazônia on the Rio Tapajós in January-February 1979, two specimens of *L. longirostris* were collected. The species called nightly and often during afternoon rains in the grassy

cut-over area around the Acampamento Uruá (4° 37' S, 56° 15' W), but the ventriloquial nature of the call and the impenetrability of the calling sites made collection of specimens difficult. After several hours of searching, one male (USNM 234050) was finally tracked to a small "arbor" at the base of a dense grass clump in a roadside ditch. The frog sat on the mud substrate, but was completely covered by an arch of grass, much like a rodent runway. Slight disturbances caused a cessation of calling by the four to six males in the chorus. The silence often lasted 40 minutes or more. When finally confronted by the collector peering in the front of the calling arch, the frogs rapidly escaped through a rear exit. The ditch frequently flooded during heavy rains, but no evidence of *Leptodactylus* nests or larvae were found; the ditch invariably dried up after several days of only light showers.

Once the call had been identified, *L. longirostris* was later heard at several localities along the Transamazon Highway in the park. Choruses were small (3-10 individuals) and always in open areas, usually near one of the many roadside ponds. Calling males were well spaced (2-5 m distant) and seemed to prefer the grassy edges of ditches or depressions which drained into the ponds rather than similar areas nearer the water. A larger gravid female (MZUSP 56075) was collected crossing the road at 20:00 hrs, heading towards a chorus around the lago at km 70 (= road km SSW of Itaituba along the Transamazon Highway).

Between 1979 and 1981, the Uruá areas was

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