

CLARIFICATION OF THE NAMES *RANA MYSTACEA*
SPIX, 1824, *LEPTODACTYLUS AMAZONICUS*
HEYER, 1978 AND A DESCRIPTION OF A
NEW SPECIES, *LEPTODACTYLUS SPIXI*
(AMPHIBIA: LEPTODACTYLIDAE)

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Abstract.—Méhely in 1904 proposed a lectotype designation for *Rana mystacea* Spix, 1824, that differs from Heyer's lectotype designation of 1978. *Leptodactylus amazonicus* Heyer, 1978, is a synonym of *Rana mystacea* Spix, 1824, and a new species is proposed to solve the remaining consequent nomenclatural problem.

Dr. Marinus Hoogmoed brought to my attention a paper by Méhely (1904) which I had overlooked in my review of the *Leptodactylus fuscus* species group (Heyer 1978). Méhely (1904: 219) designated a lectotype for *Rana mystacea* Spix, 1824, which differs from and obviously predates my designation for the species (Heyer 1978:30). To summarize briefly, Spix based his new species, *mystacea*, on two Brazilian specimens (since destroyed), a male from "Bahia" (Spix 1824, plate 3, figure 3) and a female from "Solimoens" (=Rio Solimões) (Spix 1824, plate 3, figure 1). Méhely (1904:219) considered the Bahia specimen to belong to the species *Rana typhonia* Daudin [= *Leptodactylus fuscus* (Schneider, 1799)] and chose the Rio Solimões specimen as represented in figure 1, plate 3 of Spix to be the name-bearer of *mystacea*. I considered the Bahia and Solimões specimens to represent two distinct members of the *mystaceus* complex and chose the figure of the Bahia specimen as the name bearer of *mystacea* and described a new species, *amazonicus*, for the species represented by the figured specimen from the Rio Solimões. As Méhely's action takes precedence, the consequences are: (1) *Leptodactylus amazonicus* Heyer, 1978, becomes a synonym of *Rana mystacea* Spix, 1824; (2) the species of the *mystaceus* complex from the northern Atlantic forests of Brazil lacks a name, as no other name has been proposed for the species involved. Consequently, the following name is proposed for the species referred to as *Leptodactylus mystaceus* in the 1978 paper.

Leptodactylus spixi, new species

Holotype.—USNM 96409, an adult male from Brazil: Rio de Janeiro; Saco de São Francisco, Niteroi. Collector unknown, collected on 13 Oct 1923.

Paratopotypes.—USNM 96407-8, 96410-11.

Referred specimens.—Other specimens as indicated under distribution section for *Leptodactylus mystaceus* in Heyer, 1978 (p. 65).

Diagnosis.—Most individual *spixi* have a combination of a distinct light stripe on the posterior surface of the thigh and distinct white tubercles on the surfaces of the posterior tarsus and sole of foot; these states are shared with *albilabris*

