

The Systematic Status of *Adenomera griseigularis* Henle,  
with Comments on Systematic Problems in the Genus *Adenomera*  
(Amphibia: Leptodactylidae)

W. Ronald Heyer

Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Amphibians and Reptiles, National Museum of Natural History,  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

**Abstract.** *Adenomera griseigularis* Henle is a junior synonym of *Leptodactylus wagneri* (Peters). Systematic problems and opportunities are discussed for certain members of the genus *Adenomera*. Researchers are cautioned that resolution of certain taxa will require non-morphological data.

**Introduction**

Examination of the holotype (and only known specimen) of *Adenomera griseigularis* Henle reveals that it is not a member of the genus *Adenomera*. The main purpose of this paper is to discuss the systematic status of *A. griseigularis*, but certain species problems in *Adenomera* are also discussed.

The Status of *Adenomera griseigularis* Henle, 1981

Henle (1981) described *Adenomera griseigularis* on the basis of a single juvenile specimen, ZMFK Bonn 31800, from Tingo Maria, Peru (fig. 1). The specimen is somewhat dessicated and the posterior sternal region has been destroyed. The holotype differs in two marked respects from all other members of the genus *Adenomera*. The holotype has extensive fringing on the sides of the toes and lacks numerous white tubercles on the sole of the foot and outer tarsus. No other *Adenomera* has toe fringes or webs, and all other *Adenomera* have distinct, white tubercles on the outer tarsus and sole of the foot. Several *Leptodactylus* species have toe fringes and lack distinct white foot and tarsal tubercles, however. *Leptodactylus wagneri* (Peters, 1862) shares these two characters with the holotype of *A. griseigularis* as well as the following characteristics: first finger noticeably longer than second; dorsolateral folds absent; tarsal fold extending almost the full length of tarsus; a broad and diffuse light interorbital band bordered behind by a dark triangular mark extending to the shoulder region; two pairs of symmetrical dark dorsal blotches in addition to a broad dark dorsal band in the sacral region; posterior surface of thigh distinctly mottled; throat region suffused with melanophores (Henle stated this pattern



Fig. 1. Holotype of *Adenomera griseigularis* Henle.

was diagnostic in *Adenomera*; the pattern is common in *Leptodactylus*); belly light; 23.7 mm SVL juvenile size (this is adult size for *Adenomera* species).

A major diagnostic feature for differentiation of adult *Adenomera* and *Leptodactylus* is the shape of the terminal phalanges: T-shaped (but not expanded) in *Adenomera* and knobbed in *Leptodactylus*. The terminal phalanges are visible in a couple of the desiccated toe tips of the holotype of *A. griseigularis*: they are knobby and T-shaped, but not expanded. This intermediate condition, although interesting, is not surprising, as there is not a large morphological difference between the knobby and unexpanded T-shaped terminal phalangeal states. An ontogenetic series of *Leptodactylus wagneri* should be examined to document the development of the terminal phalangeal shape.