

1917; DE HAAS 1950; SUPRIATNA 1995; ISKANDAR & COLIJN 2001).

In April and August 1998, two live *R. nigrostriatus* were collected in the vicinity of Merauke, Province of Papua, Indonesia, by native collectors. In their external phenotype, both snakes closely resembled Australian and Papua New Guinean specimens of *R. nigrostriatus* as described and illustrated in the literature (COGGER 2002; O'SHEA 1996). One of the specimens was preserved and deposited in the herpetological collection of the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (SMF 81869). It documents a range extension of approximately 100 km NW from collecting localities in Papua New Guinea (O'SHEA 1996: 213) and represents a new province and country record for Papua and Indonesia, respectively.

*Rhinoplocephalus nigrostriatus* is an extremely slender, cylindrical snake with a narrow, flattened head which is only slightly distinct from the neck, and a long tail. The maximum total length of *R. nigrostriatus* is reported to be 615 mm (O'SHEA 1996: 138), and based on their small size and the unavailability of information on their venom and toxins or cases of snakebite, these snakes are believed to be unlikely to effectively envenom humans (O'SHEA 1996), and not considered to belong to the dangerous species in Australia (SUTHERLAND & TIBBALLS 2001).

*Rhinoplocephalus nigrostriatus* has been described as being a secretive, nocturnal snake which feeds principally on lizards and is usually found sheltering under logs or ground litter in sclerophyll forests and woodlands (COGGER 2002). Maintained in captivity under a western Javan climate regime, the specimen from Merauke exhibited considerable activity during the day which was reminiscent of that of a diurnal forager. It also rapidly hunted down and swallowed unidentified small skinks during the day, and defended itself by swift strikes when cornered. Under identical conditions, specimens of *R. boschmai* from the same area were strictly nocturnal in agreement with the literature (COGGER 2002), and inoffensive.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: I am grateful to Frank Bambang YUWONO (P.T. Vivaria Indonesia, Jakarta) for providing laboratory facilities and help with logistics.

REFERENCES: COGGER, H. G. (2002): Reptiles and amphibians of Australia; 6th ed. Sydney (Reed New

Holland), 808 pp. DE HAAS, C. P. J. (1950): Checklist of the snakes of the Indo-Australian archipelago (Reptiles – Ophidia).- Treubia, Bogor; 20: 511-625. DE ROOU, N. (1917): The reptiles of the Indo-Australian Archipelago; II. Ophidia. Leiden (E. J. Brill), 334 pp. ISKANDAR, D. T. & COLIJN, E. (2001): A checklist of Southeast Asian and New Guinean reptiles – Part I. Serpentes. Jakarta (Biodiversity Conservation Project, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Japan International Cooperation Agency, The Ministry of Forestry, The Gibbon Foundation and Institute of Technology Bandung), 195 pp. O'SHEA, M. T. (1996): A guide to the snakes of Papua New Guinea. Port Moresby (Independent Publishing), 239 pp. SUPRIATNA, J. (1995): Ular berbisca di Indonesia. Jakarta (Penerbit Bhratara), 75 pp. SUTHERLAND, S. K. & TIBBALLS, J. (2001): Australian animal toxins. Melbourne (Oxford University Press), 856 pp.

KEY WORDS: Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Elapidae: *Rhinoplocephalus nigrostriatus*; venomous snakes; geographical distribution; new country record; Merauke, Papua, Indonesia; Papua New Guinea; New Guinea; Australia

SUBMITTED: May 7, 2004

AUTHOR: Ulrich KUCH, Sektion Herpetologie, Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Senckenberganlage 25, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany < u.kuch@em.uni-frankfurt.de >.

## New distributional records of amphibians in the Andes of Ecuador

During herpetological field studies in the Andes of Ecuador, research associates of the Universidad San Francisco de Quito discovered new locations where poorly-known amphibians occurred. Little information is available for Ecuadorian amphibians and the present contribution is part of a series that intends to enhance our knowledge about the amphibians in order to promote their conservation.

Two specimens of *Eleutherodactylus sobetes* LYNCH, 1980 (DFCH- USFQ 0902, 0912) were collected at the Bosque Protector Río Guajalito, km 56 of the road Quito-San Juan-Chiriboga-Las Palmas, province of Pichincha (00°14'S / 78°49'W, 1.900 m, February 2000) by D. F. CISNEROS-HEREDIA and A. LEÓN. These specimens represent vouchers for the second locality of the species (previously known just from the type locality, LYNCH & DUELLMAN 1997), extending its range ca. 15 km to the west. Both specimens were collected near a ravine in an old secondary evergreen low montane forest at

night over leaves 0.5-1.0 m above forest floor.

*Phrynopus brunneus* LYNCH, 1975 (FHGO-USFQ 3046, 15 July 2000) and *P. peraccai* LYNCH, 1975 (FHGO-USFQ 3036-37, 06 August 2000) were collected at Chamizo, province of Carchi (00°30'N / 77°45'W) by D. ALMEIDA and N. SCHULTZ. This is the second locality for *P. brunneus* (known just from the type locality, FROST 2002) extending its range ca. 30 km SW; and the first locality for *P. peraccai* in the province of Carchi (known just from the vicinity of Papallacta, province of Napo, FROST 2002). Both species do not seem to be sympatric, with *P. peraccai* found in montane forests and paramo areas at 3.000 and 3.350 m, and *P. brunneus* in agricultural areas at 3.100 m.

*Epicrionops bicolor* has been mentioned but a few times after BOULENGER's (1883) description and TAYLOR's (1968) redescription. LYNCH (2000 "1999") reported specimens from Colombia, noting that it was otherwise known from the holotype only. Two specimens (DFCH-USFQ 0880, 0906) collected at Bosque Protector Río Guajalito, km 56 of the road Quito-San Juan-Chiriboga-Las Palmas, province of Pichincha (00°14'S / 78° 49'W, 1.900 m, February and August 2000), by D. F. CISNEROS-HEREDIA and A. LEÓN are the second and third records from Ecuador. DFCH-USFQ 0880 was active in the nude ground, moving from the forest towards a river at 23:20. DFCH-USFQ 0906 was found active underneath a pile of logs in an old secondary evergreen low montane forest at 21:30. Both were found after heavy rains. *Epicrionops bicolor* is sympatric with *Caecilia* cf. *pachynema* GÜNTHER, 1859 at Río Guajalito.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: To A. LEÓN for field companionship, to J. SIMMONS, L. COLOMA, J. LYNCH, D. ALMEIDA, and F. NOGALES for sharing information and providing literature. Specimens reported herein are part of the collections of DIEGO F. CISNEROS-HEREDIA (DFCH-USFQ) and Fundación Herpetológica GUSTAVO ORCES (FHGO-USFQ), both housed at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), Quito, Ecuador. J.-M. TOUZET and A. M. VELASCO provided facilities for study of the FHGO-USFQ collection. K. SWING, S. DE LA TORRE and MA. E. HEREDIA critically read the manuscript. MA. E. HEREDIA and L. HEREDIA provided financial and moral support. I am indebted to V. ZAK, owner of Bosque Protector Río Guajalito, for all the facilities and constant support provided.

Universidad San Francisco de Quito provided institutional support and laboratory facilities.

REFERENCES: BOULENGER, G. A. (1883): Description of a new genus of Caeciliae.- Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., London; (ser. 5) 11 (63): 202-203. FROST, D. R. (2002): Amphibian species of the world: an online reference. V2.21 [15 July 2002]. New York. < http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.php > (Accessed: 14 February 2004). LYNCH, J. D. (2000 "1999"): Una aproximación a las culebras ciegas de Colombia (Amphibia: Gymnophiona).- Rev. Acad. Colombiana Cienc., Bogotá; 23 (supl. esp.): 317-337. LYNCH, J. D. & DUELLMAN, W. E. (1997): Frogs of the genus *Eleutherodactylus* in Western Ecuador. Systematics, ecology and biogeography.- Univ. Kansas, Mus. Nat. Hist. Spec. Publ., Lawrence; 23: 1-236. TAYLOR, E. H. (1968): The caecilians of the world. A Taxonomic Review. Lawrence (Univ. Kansas Press), pp. 848.

KEY WORDS: Amphibia, Anura, Leptodactylidae, *Eleutherodactylus sobetes*, *Phrynopus brunneus*, *Phrynopus peraccai*, Gymnophiona, Rhinatrematidae, *Epicrionops bicolor*, distribution, new records, Carchi, Pichincha, Ecuador

SUBMITTED: May 5, 2004

AUTHOR: Diego F. CISNEROS-HEREDIA, College of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ave. Interocéánica y calle Diego de Robles, Campus Cumbayá, Edif. Maxwell. Casilla Postal 17-12-841, Quito, Ecuador < diegofrancisco\_cisneros@yahoo.com >.

### First record of *Platyceps najadum dahlii* (SCHINZ, 1833) from the Croatian Island of Pag and confirmation for the Island of Krk

As indicated by a continuous line in the map by DAREWSKI & ŠČERBAK (1993), the vicinity of the town of Zadar on the Dalmatian coast (Croatia) has been the northernmost substantiated record locality of *Platyceps najadum dahlii* (SCHINZ, 1833). An even more northern site on the Island of Krk (BRUNO 1980) is linked to the continuously encircled distribution area by a dashed line which might suggest some doubts on its credibility. The snake's mention from Istria (Rovinj, Pula - MÜLLER 1934-35) was largely ignored by subsequent authors.

During an excursion on the Croatian Island of Pag, on June, 11, 2004, a specimen of *P. najadum dahlii* was found dead on the road about two kilometers south of the village of Vrčići in the central south of the island (fig. 1). The snake was detected at about 9:00 a.m. and appeared almost freshly killed. On both sides of the road, there