

Presence of *Kassina cassinoides* (BOULENGER, 1903) in Senegal

Kassina cassinoides (BOULENGER, 1903) was described on the basis of a single female from MacCarthy Island, The Gambia. ANDERSSON (1937) found it to be very common at this place but otherwise it is rare and seldomly collected (SCHJØTZ 1967; RÖDEL 2000). Recently, WÄNGER (2005) found this species again in The Gambia, west of the type locality, viz. in the Kiang West National Park. Though locally common, the distribution records all over West Africa seem to be rather disjunct (RÖDEL 2000). The nearest known record locality of *K. cassinoides* east of MacCarthy Island and the only one in Mali is Diafarabé (SCHJØTZ 1977; JOGER & LAMBERT 1996) (see fig. 1). All of the few remaining records are situated east of Diafarabé in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Cameroon (see map in SCHJØTZ 1999).

The huge gap of approximately 1050 kilometers linear distance between MacCarthy Island and Diafarabé is now partially bridged by a new photographic record from the Niokolo Koba National Park in SE Senegal (figs. 1, 2), a rather well-studied area [see



Fig. 2: *Kassina cassinoides* (BOULENGER, 1903) at Siminti, Niokolo Koba NP, SE Senegal (Photo: I. ANTÓN).

JOGER & LAMBERT (2002) who report *Kassina fusca* SCHJØTZ, 1967 and *K. senegalensis* (DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1841) but not *K. cassinoides* from there]. The presence of *K. cassinoides* in Senegal is documented here for the first time. It may be much more widespread than currently known and largely overlooked even in relatively well-sampled areas such as Niokolo Koba (JOGER & LAMBERT 2002) from where the new record is reported here.

The photograph of the present Senegalese specimen was taken by Mr. Iosù AN-



Fig. 1: Map showing the first Senegalese record (arrow) and the other geographically nearest recorded localities of *Kassina cassinoides* (BOULENGER, 1903) in westernmost Africa. Numbers of the localities are: 1 - Kiang West National Park, The Gambia; 2 - MacCarthy Island, The Gambia (type locality); 3 - Siminti, Niokolo Koba NP, Senegal; 4 - Diafarabé, Mali.

TÓN, Pamplona (Spain), on November 23, 1999, i.e. at the end of the rainy season, at Siminti at the southwestern edge of the National Park, in a pond close to the Siminti hotel. The double paravertebral black bands which are diagnostic for this species, are well visible (fig. 2).

Iosu ANTÓN sent the photograph to me in April 2000, together with photos of additional herpetological species from the Niokolo Koba Park (all from Siminti). These were *Amnirana galamensis* (DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1841), *Hyperolius* sp., *Agama agama* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Tarentola parvicarinata* JOGER, 1980, and a juvenile *Trachylepis perroteti* (DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1839). All pictures are kept in the photo archives of the Herpetology Section of ZFMK (Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum A. Koenig, Bonn).

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AUTHOR: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang BÖHME, Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum A. Koenig, Adenauerallee 160, D-53113 Bonn, Germany, <w.boehme.zfmk@uni-bonn.de>.

On the occurrence of *Ptychadena schillukorum* (WERNER, 1907) in Egypt

Although Egypt is a largely hyperarid country it is home to a reasonable diversity of amphibians, due in part to the presence of the Nile River, which acts as a corridor for several taxa of Afrotropical origin to extend as far north as the Mediterranean. ANDERSON (1898), FLOWER (1933), MARX (1968), HAFEZ (1978), SALEH (1997) listed up to seven species of Anura occurring in Egypt: *Bufo kassasii* BAHA EL DIN, 1993, *B. regularis* REUSS, 1833, *B. viridis* LAURENTI, 1768, *B. dodsoni* BOULENGER, 1895, *Rana bedriagae* CAMERANO, 1882, *Ptychadena mascareniensis* s. l. (DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, 1841) and *Hyla savignyi* AUDOUIN, 1827. BAHA EL DIN (2001) reported the occurrence of *R. sahariana* BOULENGER, 1913 in the Western Desert of Egypt. *Bufo pentoni* ANDERSON, 1893, *Rana cordofana* (STEINDACHNER, 1867) and *B. xeros* TANDY, TANDY, KEITH & DUFF-MACKAY, 1976 are also listed for Egypt by ANDERSON (1898) and FROST et al. (1998-2004). The listing of the first two can be explained by the fact that Egypt's past geographic boundaries encompassed large portions of today's Sudan. However, the inclusion of *B. xeros* has no explanation hitherto. A further species, *Ptychadena schillukorum* (WERNER, 1907), was listed intermittently as occurring in Egypt [mostly using its junior synonym *P. floweri* (BOULENGER, 1917)] in several regional and global accounts of amphibian fauna, such as POYNTON (1964), RÖDEL (2000) and FROST et al. (1998-2004), amongst others. However, this listing was regarded as unjustified due to the lack of any recent evidence (BAHA EL DIN 2001).

The listing of *P. schillukorum* for Egypt was based solely on reports by LOVERIDGE (1933, 1957), who made cursory reference to three *Ptychadena* specimens housed in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, MA (MCZ 3138-40) collected from Giza, which he referred to this species. No further observations or material referable to the species was documented from Egypt before or since LOVERIDGE's (l. c.) reports, despite the extensive collections and prospection made in the country over the

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Böhme Wolfgang

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