Notes on some Osteocephalus treefrogs from Amazonian Ecuador

Forty-nine species of treefrogs (family Hylidae) have been recorded at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station (TBS), Orellana province, Amazonian Ecuador (0°37'5"S, 76°10'19"W, 190-270 m a.s.l.) (CISNEROS-HEREDIA 2001, 2003); including eight species of the genus Osteocephalus, namely O. buckleyi (BOULENGER, 1882), O. cabrerai (COCHRAN & GOIN, 1970), O. planiceps COPE, 1874, O. taurinus STEINDACHNER, 1862, O. deridens JUNGFER, RON, SEIPP & ALMENDÁRIZ, 2000, O. fuscifacies JUNGFER, RON, SEIPP & ALMENDARIZ, 2000, O. mutabor JUNGFER & HÖDL, 2002, and O. yasuni RON & PRAMUK, 1999 (CISNEROS-HEREDIA 2003). Several Osteocephalus species have been recently described and our knowledge on them is still at a basic level. Herein, I present some notes on the distribution and natural history of two poorly-known Osteocephalus.

Two recently described species, O. yasuni and O. mutabor, were collected at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station, being their easternmost location known from Ecuador. These records extend the ranges of O. yasuni ca. 31 km E from the type locality and of O. mutabor ca. 54 km SE from the nearest known record (San Pablo de Kantesiaya, JUNGFER & HÖDL 2002). Osteocephalus mutabor was also collected at the Reserva de Producción Faunística Cuyabeno (76°12'54"W, 00°05'02"S, 290 m a.s.l., 20 July 2000), in terra firme forest, extending its range ca. 30 km E from the nearest known locality in northern Napo River bank (San Pablo de Kantesiaya, JUNGFER & HÖDL 2002).

Adults of Osteocephalus yasuni were reported in the original description as having white bones, brown webbing and yellow venter with the color intensifying towards the groin (RON & PRAMUK 1999); however juveniles were found to have green bones (ontogenic change also reported for Osteocephalus leprieuri, JUNGFER & HÖDL 2002) and intense yellow-orange color on webbing and on the entire venter and throat. Osteocephalus yasuni was found at primary terra firme (mainly females and non-reproductive males) and flooded forests near stream edges (mainly reproductive males) in TBS.

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