

*Pristimantis repens* (LYNCH, 1984),  
a frog not restricted to the Páramo

*Pristimantis repens* (LYNCH, 1984), was described from Volcán Gáleras (the type locality) and adjacent localities above 3150 m of altitude, in the Department of Nariño, Colombia (LYNCH 1984, 2004). This species was assigned originally to the genus *Eleutherodactylus* by LYNCH, but according to the recent study of HEINICKE et al. (2007), the majority of South American species of this genus are included in the genus *Pristimantis* in the family Leptodactylidae. Other taxonomic schemes, like FROST et al. (2006), included the genus *Eleutherodactylus* in the family Brachycephalidae. Here, we follow the taxonomy proposed by HEINICKE et al. (2007), but with the genus *Pristimantis* maintained within the family Brachycephalidae according to FROST (2007).

LYNCH & SUÁREZ-MAYORGA (2002), based only on the data presented by LYNCH (1984), classified *P. repens* as an endemic species to the Páramo ecosystem in Colombia, an environment above 3200 m to 4100 m, dominated by forests of *Polylepis*, shrubs of Asteraceae and Ericaceae, stem-rosettes ("frailejones") of *Espeletia*, and tussocks of *Calamagrostis* ("pajonales") (RANGEL-CH. 2000). At the moment of this classification, the species was known from localities that, according to CUATRECASAS (1958) and RANGEL-CH. (2000), fall within the Páramo ecosystem.

In 2006, we reported a new locality for *P. repens* located 60 km NE of Volcán Gáleras in the Reserva Natural Santa Helena (ca. 01°31'N, 76°56'W; ca. 3278 m elevation), Corregimiento La Estancia, La Cruz municipality, Nariño Department (ROJAS-RIVERA 2006; ROJAS-R. & GUTIÉRREZ-C. 2006). While this elevation should correspond to typical Páramo habitat, sensu CUATRECASAS (1958) and RANGEL-CH. (2000), a floristic study in Santa Helena (MUNAR et al. 2004) showed that the predominant vegetation there does not correspond to Páramo; on the contrary, the area supports trees such as *Ocotea*, *Oreopanax* and *Weinmannia* (especially *W. mariquitae*) more characteristic of high Andean forests (RANGEL-CH. 2000).

The occurrence of this floral community at this altitude is likely due to the presence of a condensation belt of humid air masses below 3400 m, which are promoting a high vegetative diversity and complexity in Santa Helena; and displacing the páramo toward altitudes between 3400 and 4000 m (NARVÁEZ 1998). At 3400 m of altitude, the high-Andean forest is bound with forest of *Polylepis*, typical shrubs in the Department of Nariño (RANGEL-CH. 2000). Then, it is clear that the transition between high-Andean forest and páramo is not only depending on the elevation and vegetation criteria, but is also influenced by local climatic factors.

Consequently, we consider that *P. repens* is not a species restricted to the páramo ecosystems because it also occurs in plant associations of high-Andean forest, in the same way that *P. buckleyi* (BOULENGER, 1882), *P. elegans* (PETERS, 1863), *P. myersi* (GOIN & COCHRAN, 1963), and *Hyloxalus subpunctatus* (COPE, 1899) do, as LYNCH & SUÁREZ-MAYORGA (2002) mentioned.

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