Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae, Argenteohyla siemersi pederseni (Williams and Bosso, 1994): first record and some hematological data in Santa Fe Province, Argentina

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ABSTRACT: We herein report on the first west-southern most record of Argenteohyla siemersi pederseni in Argentina. This finding was recorded ca. 250 km far from the nearest known locality in Corrientes, and also enlarges the distribution range for including for the Santa Fe Province.

Argenteohyla siemersi pederseni is an uncommon hylid frog classified as Endangered (IUCN 2008; Lavilla et al. 2008). The more known populations of this species are found in north-west of Corrientes Province (Argentina) in San Roque, San Cosme, Corrientes Capital and Parque Nacional Mburucuya localities (e.g. Williams and Bosso 1994; Céspedez et al. 1995; Céspedez 2000). Some natural history of A. s. pederseni was pointed by Díminich and Zaracho (2008) and Zaracho and Areta (2008) who described its reproductive mode and its advertisement call, respectively. Recently, Cajade et al. (2010) describes other reproductive traits such as egg number per clutch, tadpole’s morphology, and also other general bioecological characteristics in a modified “quebracho” forest of Schinopsis balansae in Corrientes Province.

Herein, we present the first west-southern most record of A. siemersi pederseni for Santa Fe Province in Argentina. The night of 1 February 2012 (temperature 25.5 °C; relative humidity 75 % ), we collected one specimen of A. s. pederseni (Figure 1) near marshes locate at 10.5 km approximately apart from Provincial Road Nº 1 (31°10’21.10” S, 60°15’31.73” W Cayastá, Garay Department, Santa Fe Province, Figure 2). According to the Ecoregions scheme (Burkart et al. 1999), the area present intermixed floristic communities of the Espinal and Delta and Islas del Río Paraná mainly characterize by Prosopis affinis, P. nigra, P. alba, Salix humboldtiana, and Acacia caven trees. The ephemeral ponds and marshes present Eichhormia crassipes, Pontederia cordata, Sagittaria montevidensis, Cyperus corymbosus, Salvinia biloba, and Pistia stratiotes. The climate is humid to sub-humid and warm to temperate (Cáceres 1980). The disturbances in the area are due to agriculture expansion, lumbering and mainly livestock over-grazing (Hilgbert et al. 2003; Lewis et al. 2006; Figure 3). In addition, the invasion of exotic species (e.g. Gleditsia triacanthos, Parkinsonia aculeata, Eucaliptus spp.) (Pers. Obs.) is notable. These disturbances critically jeopardize conservation of floristic and faunistical diversities (Arturi 2006).

We collected this specimen of A. siemersi pederseni in the habitat shared with other anurans such as Rhinella fernandezae, Leptodactylus latrans, L. chaquensis, L. latinasus, Physalaemus albonotatus, Dendropsophus sanborni, D. nanus, Hypsiboas pulchellus, Lysapsus limellum, Scinax nasicus, S. squilatrostris, S. acuminatus, and Pseudis paradoxa. The specimen (Body weight = 4 g, Snout vent length = 41.25 mm, Head width = 14.5 mm, Femur length = 17 mm, Tibio-fibula length = 20 mm, Foot length = 28.5 mm, Inter-narial distance = 2.65 mm, Narial-eye distance = 4.25 mm, Tympanum diameter = 2.4 mm, Inter-orbital distance = 6.50 mm, Eye diameter = 3.75 mm) is deposited in the herpetological collection of Faculty of Biochemistry and Biological Sciences (PL-FBCB 3709).

Figure 1. Individual of Argenteohyla siemersi pederseni (PL-FBCB 3709) collected in Cayastá field, Santa Fe Province, Argentina. Photo by Paola M. Peltzer.
Previously, frog was anesthetized in MS222 (0.1%) solution buffered with 0.2% NaHCO3, a blood sample was collected by cardiac puncture using a heparinized needle. Two peripheral blood smears were prepared on clean slides, fixed and stained by the May-Grunwald-Giemsa method (Dacie and Lewis 1991). Mature erythrocytes are oval cells with centrally placed and similarly shaped nuclei (Figure 4). The size of the Red Blood Cell (RBC mean ± SD, N = 2000) was 242.11 ± 23.41 µm² and the nuclei were: oval cells with centrally placed and similarly shaped nuclei (Figure 4). The size of the Red Blood Cell (RBC mean ± SD, oval cells with centrally placed and similarly shaped nuclei (Figure 4).

These values were above the average recorded for adult anurans in this area and similar to those obtained for H. pulchellus and H. raniceps (Cabagna unpublished data) and within range of the few determined for hylid frogs (Glomski et al. 1997).

Although this finding significantly enlarges the known distribution of this endangered frog (IUCN 2008) for 250 km to the west-south, and constitutes the first record for Santa Fe Province, we are conducting studies to determine if this species has a stable population in this area. This is especially important because major parts of this region are not included in the conservation action plans where modification by anthropic activities gradually and profoundly changed the quality of aquatic systems by pesticide contaminations, composition of the vegetative communities either by over-grazing the herbaceous layer, eliminating the hardiest forest species or by burning all of the forest for agriculture.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: We thank Rafael Lajmanovich (Jr) and German Peltzer for field assistance.

LITERATURE CITED


Accepted: June 2012
Published online: August 2012
Editorial responsibility: Raúl Maneyro