First record of the rain frog *Pristimantis myersi* (Goin & Cochrane, 1963) (Anura, Craugastoridae) for Ecuador

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**Abstract:** *Pristimantis myersi* is a small Andean frog that inhabits paramos, sub-paramos and upper Andean forests at elevations between 2,900–3,275 m. It is known from about a dozen localities in the southern end of the Cordillera Central of the Colombian Andes. Herein, we report for the first time the presence of this species in Ecuador, based on ten specimens from three localities in the provinces of Imbabura and Sucumbíos. The species’ range is extended and a distribution map with the Ecuadorian records is provided.

**Key words:** Amphibia, Terrarana, Cutín, direct-developing frog, Andes

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*Pristimantis myersi* (Goin & Cochrane, 1963), the type species of the homonymic phenetic group, is characterized by its small size (males SVL: 13.7–17.5 mm; females SVL: 17.5–23.2 mm); tuberculate dorsal skin, paravertebral (sometimes absent) and sinuate dorsolateral folds, ventral surface areolate to coarsely areolate; visible tympanum; subcuminate snout in dorsal view; sharp canthus rostralis; upper eyelid bearing numerous low tubercles; vomerine odontophores absent, with two to three teeth; males with vocal slits; fingers and toes bearing narrow keels, small discs and minute pads; brown dorsal coloration, black venter, and red spots (in life) in groins, anterior and posterior surfaces of thighs (Lynch 1981). This species inhabits paramos, sub-paramos and upper Andean forests (from 2,900–3,275 m), and is known from about a dozen localities at the southern end of the Cordillera Central in Colombia, in the departments of Valle del Cauca and Nariño (Castro et al. 2004; Appendix 1). Its presence in the neighboring Ecuador has been expected, but no records have been published to date (Castro et al. 2004).

During a revision of museum specimens of the *Pristimantis myersi* group from Ecuador, 10 individuals of *Pristimantis myersi* were found. These specimens (deposited in the herpetological collection of the Museo de Zoología de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, QCAZ) were mis-identified as *P. festae* and *P. ocreatus*. All the specimens come from three localities at the northern Ecuador: 1) near Laguna de Puruanta (or Puruanta), Province of Imbabura (00°12′ N, 077°57′ W; 2,800 m above sea level [a.s.l.]; QCAZ 12677); 2) Nueva América, Province of Imbabura (00°15′ N, 077°59′ W; 3,400–3,470 m a.s.l.; QCAZ 14554–14560); and 3) El Playón de San Francisco, Province of Sucumbíos (00°38′ N, 077°37′ W; 3,350–3,650 m a.s.l.; QCAZ 14561–14562) (Figure 1). These specimens (Figure 2) represent the first record of *Pristimantis myersi* for Ecuador, and extend its distribution ca. 135 km south-southwest from the southernmost locality previously referred in Colombia (paramo of El Tábano, Department of Nariño; Castro et al. 2004). The altitudinal distribution is also extended from 2,800 to 3,650 m (all localities previously known range from 2,900 to 3,275 m).

Frogs of the genus *Pristimantis* are characterized by the presence of relatively few external morphological diagnostic characters and a striking intraspecific variation that frequently overlaps the interspecific variation (Guayasamin and Funk 2009). Species identification based in classic taxonomy (external morphology) occasionally can be very difficult and not free of mistakes. Consequently, it is not surprising finding unreported, or inclusive new species, resting in biological collections, hidden under incorrect names.

Careful revisions of specimens deposited in biological collections, can substantially improve the current knowledge of the amphibian biodiversity.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Santiago Ron and Diego Ortiz (QCAZ) for the loan of specimens housed in the QCAZ, and for providing information associated with these specimens. To John D. Lynch, Jhon J. Ospina-Sarria, Teddy Angarita-Sierra and Marvin Anganoy from the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales (ICN) at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, for allowing access to the specimens of *Pristimantis myersi* housed in his collection. Also thanks to J. Amanda Delgado for preparing the distribution map. This work was funded by the Centro de Investigación de la Biodiversidad y Cambio Climático (BioCamb) at the Universidad Tecnológica Indoamérica, Quito (UTI), through the project “Patrones de diversidad de los anfibios andinos del Ecuador”.

LITERATURE CITED


Authors’ contribution statement: FJMRR and JMG identified the specimens, FJMRR wrote the text, and JMG revised the text.
Figure 2. Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) views of three specimens of *Pristimantis myersi* from Ecuador. A, B: QCAZ 14562 (female; SVL: 21.3 mm) from El Playón de San Francisco, Province of Sucumbíos; C, D: QCAZ 11677 (female; SVL: 22.9 mm) from Laguna de Puruhanta, Province of Imbabura; E, F: QCAZ 14557 (female; SVL: 21.8 mm) from Nueva América, Province of Imbabura. Scale bars represent 10 mm.
APPENDIX 1.
Additional specimens examined.

_Pristimantis myersi_: COLOMBIA: Department of Nariño: páramo El Tábano (ICN 2503); Municipality of Cumbal, km 16–17 Chiles-San Felipe, northern slope of Volcán Chiles, 3,780–3,800 m a.s.l. (ICN 24337–24340); Department of Valle del Cauca: PNN Nevado del Huila, Cabaña Inderena, 2,820 m a.s.l. (ICN 6484, 6500); Páez, paramo Santo Domingo, km 51–52, Belalcazar to Tacueyo, 3,500 m a.s.l. (ICN 6677); Puracé, km 55 road Popayán-La Plata, PNN Puracé (ICN 25908–25910); Laguna San Rafael, cabaña San Rafael del Inderena, 3,300 m a.s.l. (ICN 33200–33201, 33203–33204).