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A COLLECTION OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS
FROM THE UPPER ORINOCO,

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In response to a flattering invitation to work in the Royal Belgian Museum of Natural History as a collaborator, the author recently undertook the examination of some of the new collections of recent reptiles and amphibians which had been received by the Museum. Among these was a small collection made by the Marquis de Wavrin on the upper Orinoco, in the Venezuelan province of Amazonas. The collection is too small for any zoogeographical generalisations to be possible, but the whole area is so little known herpetologically that details of all the species, whether rare or not, appear to be worth publishing.

The author wishes to acknowledge his gratitude to the authorities of the Museum and particularly to Dr. Van Straelen and Dr. Giltay for much kindness and hospitality.

Amphibia Salientia.

***Bufo granulosus* Spix.**

One immature female and one juvenile.

BERG in 1896 (p. 197) proposed the substitution of the name *globulosus* SPIX for the better known *granulosus*, on the ground of priority. This change was not generally accepted until recently when both LUTZ (1934, p. 149) and the author (1935, p. 509) drew attention to BERG's remarks and used the name

globulosus. But this action cannot be maintained for the only priority *globulosus* can claim is « page precedence » which, in the present instance cannot be invoked. PETERS (1872, p. 225) was the first reviser to consider the question and he deliberately selected *granulosus* in preference to *globulosus*, and this selection must stand. (International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, Art. 28.)

Leptodactylus rugosus Noble.

2 ♂♂, 1 ♀.

The discovery of this species, hitherto only reported from British Guiana, extends its known range considerably. The specimens agree well with the original description and with specimens from British Guiana, but the female, measuring 49 mm. from snout to vent, is rather larger and both males have a single, small, nuptial spine on the inner side of the first finger; these structures were originally reported to be absent.

Hyla crepitans Wied.

2 ♀♀ and 2 tadpoles.

The larvae, both of which have well-developed hind-limbs, are only tentatively referred to this species since their preservation leaves something to be desired.

Hyla wavrini sp. n.

Holotype a female, number 459 in the Belgian Royal Museum of Natural History, collected by the Marquis de WAVRIN on the Upper Orinoco, in the province of Amazonas, Venezuela.

Tongue not emarginate and almost entirely adherent behind: vomerine teeth in two series which together form a \wedge between the very large choanae. Head depressed, as long as broad; snout rather pointed, twice as long as the diameter of the eye with very obtusely rounded canthus rostralis and very oblique, somewhat concave loreal region; nostril more than twice as far from the eye as from the tip of the snout; interorbital space as broad as the upper eyelid; tympanum very distinct, two thirds the diameter of the eye. Fingers two-thirds webbed; first, with a projecting rudiment of pollex, much shorter than the second, which is shorter than the fourth; digital discs nearly as large

as the tympanum. Toes webbed to the discs; tibio-tarsal articulation reaching beyond the tip of the snout.

Skin uniformly shagreened above; a supratympanic fold; dermal folds along the outer edges of the forearm and tarsus, and a quadrangular lappet of skin on the heel. Lower surfaces granular, coarsely so on the belly and thighs, finely on the throat and chest.

Pale purple-brown above with a median dark line from the snout to the middle of the back; rest of upper surfaces with a few irregular, dark scribblings. Limbs cross-banded on their exposed surfaces; concealed surfaces of the limbs with black, light-centred, vertical bars. Lower surfaces uniform white. Lower eyelid with metallic venation. Bones green.

Length from snout to vent 75 mm. Fore-limb 45 mm. Hind-limb 128 mm.

The paratype is a male with the same data as the type; it agrees in essentials, but is slightly larger (78 mm. from snout to vent) has a more prominent pollex, a vocal sac opening by a large slit on each side of the tongue, a brown-washed gular region and almost uniform dorsal colouring.

The species is obviously allied to *H. faber* WIED. and *H. pardalis* SPIX, but differs from both in its longer, flatter head, shagreened dorsal surfaces and green bones.

A series of tadpoles, the oldest with well-developed limbs, is tentatively referred to this species also. They agree in the webbing of the hands and feet, the presence of a projecting pollex and in having green bones; but the lappet on the heel is not developed. They are of the normal tadpole form, similar to those of related species, such as *H. geographica*; the tail is 2.5 to 3 times as long as deep and labial teeth are in two series above and three below, the innermost of each being divided mesially.

Reptilia.

Lacertilia.

Hemidactylus mabouia (Mor. de Jonn.)

1 ♀.

Serpentes.

Urotheca bicincta (Hermann.)

♀.

This species is aquatic and known locally as the « Coral de Agua ».

Chelonia.

? *Podocnemis expansa* (Schweigg.)

2 Eggs.

These eggs are identified only on the basis of their size. The tortoise which laid them is known locally as the « Tortinga » and each nest contains about a hundred eggs. Some eggs of another species of aquatic tortoise, much smaller in size, were also collected, but the animal cannot be identified from this material; it is known locally as the « Caricay » and about 40 eggs make up a clutch.

BERG, 1896, *Ann. Mus. Nac. Buenos Aires*, V, pp. 147-226.

LUTZ, 1934, *Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz*, XXVIII (1), pp. 135-159, Pls. XIII-XXVII.

PARKER, 1935, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, pp. 505-530.

PETERS, 1872, *Mon. Ak. Berlin*, p. 225.