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FURTHER NOTES UPON THE ENIGMATICAL  
BUFO NASICUS WERNER,

by Hobart M. SMITH (Urbana)  
and Raymond LAURENT (Bruxelles).

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In 1903 the name *Bufo nasicus* was proposed by WERNER [« Neue Reptilien und Batrachier aus dem naturhistorischen in Brüssel » (Zool. Anz., 1903, 26 (693) : 246-253)] for a species he then described and which was represented by only a single type specimen, N° 4792, from an unknown locality, and now in the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique in Brussels.

Sometime between 1903 and 1948, WERNER's holotype of *B. nasicus* was misplaced and later re-catalogued as N° 9422, said to have been collected by Mr. J. VAN DE PUTTE on December 10, 1923, in Texas ». The locality data, obviously in error, did stimulate investigation and discovery of the fact that the specimen was the type of *Bufo nasicus*.

The species is so strange and distinctive that we have here-with redescribed and illustrated the type in the hope that with this additional information the species may be more readily recognizable when it is rediscovered in nature.

In an attempt to determine the probable area from which the type of *B. nasicus* originated, the stomach contents, chiefly ant and termite remains, were sent to Dr. Richard E. BLACKWELDER, Associate Curator, Division of Insects, U. S. National Museum. Through his kind cooperation and that of Dr. M. R. SMITH and Dr. T. E. SNYDER, we have received the following

summary, which assumes considerable importance in restricting the probable origin of the type :

« Dr. M. R. SMITH reports that the ants belong to three genera, *Holcaponera*, *Euponera*, and *Odontomachus*. Although none look like U. S. species, the latter two are widespread and are indecisive. *Holcaponera* is restricted to the New World and not yet known from U. S., although it might occur.

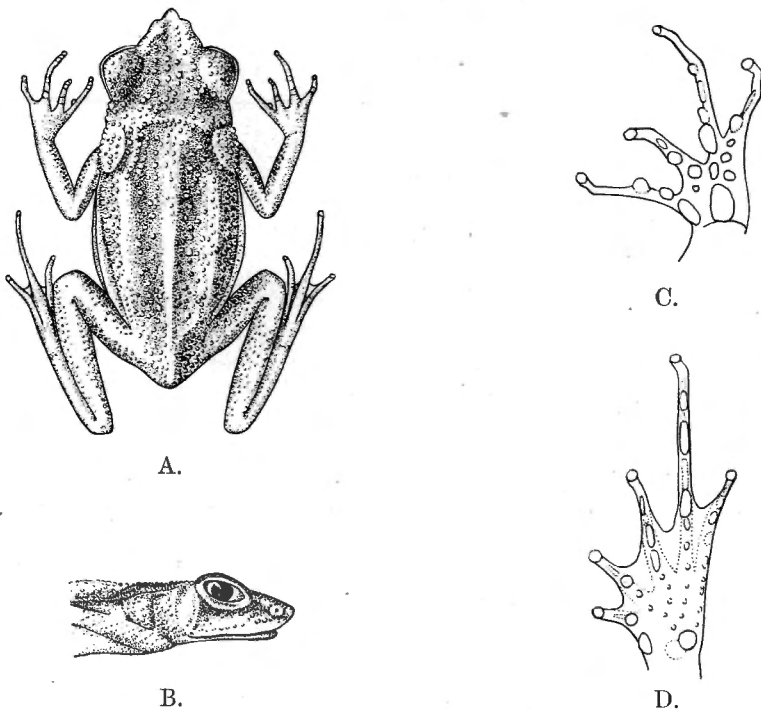
» Dr. T. E. SNYDER reports that the termites are *Syntermes* sp. The genus occurs only in South America (Colombia to Argentina). Several competent collectors have tried to find it in Panama, without success. The U. S. is out of the question. »

According to these data, the probability is extremely great that *Bufo nasicus* occurs in South America, probably along the Atlantic drainage.

In its present condition, after nearly 50 years or more in preservative, the type of *Bufo nasicus* possesses the following features: upper surface of head flat; supraorbital crest evident but poorly defined, subcircular, skirting the edge of the orbit; a well defined supratympanic crest, forming a sharp right angle between the vertical side and horizontal dorsal surface of head; a vestigial crest in front of tympanum; snout sharply pointed in all profiles, strongly receding ventrally in lateral profile; canthus rostralis strongly marked; loreal region weakly concave, almost vertical; interorbital space as broad as an upper eyelid; tympanum rather distinct, small, oval, its largest diameter about four-fifths diameter of eye, twice its own minimum diameter.

Fingers very elongate, the first longer than the second; toes elongate, with reduced webbing that leaves the terminal 4 phalanges free on the fourth toe, 2 on the third and fifth, and 1 on the others; subarticular tubercles simple, the proximal ones strongly protuberant especially on the hand, those on the 3rd, 4th and 5th digits elongate; two metatarsal tubercles, an inner and outer; tarsal fold well developed; tibiotarsal joint reaching to the rear corner of the eye.

Back and limbs sprinkled with small rounded tubercles especially well developed on the occiput and in the scapular region; venter finely granular.



*Bufo nasicus* WERNER.

A. Dorsal view. — B. Lateral view of head. — C. Palmar surface.  
D. Plantar surface.

Paratoid glands short, descending to the arm insertion, that portion on dorsal surface somewhat smaller than an upper eyelid, with a dorsolateral ridge in line with the postorbital crest, and on one side with a well-defined dorsolateral fold extending backwards toward the groin; a comparable fold on the other side of the body is at a slightly lower level and thus these may not be structural folds.

Measurements are as follows : total length, 33 mm ; head to rear border of tympanum, 9.0 mm ; length of head, 9.7 mm ; anterior limb, 22 mm ; hand to tip of 3rd finger, 9 mm ; thigh, 13 mm ; tibia, 14.9 mm.

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