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A NEW FROG FROM BRITISH GUIANA

By Helen T. Gaige

A collection received by the Museum of Zoology from British Guiana some time ago includes a single specimen of a new species of frog which apparently belongs to the family Bufonidæ, as defined by Noble (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XLVI, Art. 1, 1922), but differs sufficiently from the known genera to warrant the erection of a new genus. More recently Dr. Barbour sent for examination another frog from British Guiana, which is a paratype, and I am indebted to him for his permission to include notes upon this specimen. The kindly aid of Mr. H. W. Parker in comparing the type with specimens in the British Museum (Natural History) should also be acknowledged.

Allophryne, new genus

Diagnosis: Pupil horizontal; no maxillary teeth, palate smooth, tongue free behind; no tympanic disk. Tips of fingers and toes dilated into disks, terminal phalanges T-shaped, toes webbed. Pectoral girdle arciferous, no omosternum, sternum a cartilaginous plate. Sacral diapophyses dilated.

Type: Allophryne ruthveni.

Allophryne ruthveni, new species

Diagnosis: Canthus rounded, eyes directed forward, nostrils terminal; fingers free, toes three-fourths webbed; first finger longer than second; no tarsal fold; tibio-tarsal articulation extends to the axilla; back with pustulations, belly granular.

Type Specimen: Cat. No. 63419, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan; Tukeit Hill, below Kaiteur Falls, British Guiana; May, 1924; E. N. Clarke, collector.

Description of Type Specimen: Head very small, broader than long; tongue almost circular, entire, free behind; nostrils terminal; snout rounded; canthus rostralis rounded, very indistinct; loreal region not concave, sloping; eyes prominent, directed forward, their diameter equalling the length of the snout; interorbital space twice the width of the upper eyelid; tympanum hidden. Fingers and toes much flattened, ending in truncate disks; first finger shorter than second, which is a little shorter than the fourth, third longest; toes about three-fourths webbed; subarticular tubercles moderate, a single flat metatarsal tubercle, no tarsal fold. The tibio-tarsal articulation when extended reaches the axilla, the tibia is contained two and one-half times in the body length.

Back distinctly porous, with small pustulations which are apparently aggregations of pores. These pustulations are largest and most numerous on the snout, eyelids, and sides of the head, in which situation a few are tipped with a tiny spine. A fold curving from the eye to the shoulder and a strong fold across the throat. Throat and chest smooth, belly and under surface of thighs strongly granular.

Color gray above, a lighter gray beneath. The head is darker than the rest of the body; the back is irregularly spotted with darker and these spots show a tendency to form lines. The granules are lighter than the body color. There are two round, light spots just beneath the anus, large round light spots beneath the eye and on the lower lip, and a rather indistinct row of light spots on the side between the limbs.

The arm and tibia are mottled with dark and the upper arms, thighs and feet are spotted with light.

The type is an adult female with the body cavity crowded with many small eggs, approximately 1 mm. in diameter.

Total length 31 mm.; width of head .09 mm.; length of fore limb from axilla 17 mm.; length of hind limb from vent to tip of longest toe 36 mm.

Paratype: Museum Comparative Zoology; Tumatumari, British Guiana; September 20, 1923. This is a much smaller frog than the type, and differs in the following characters: The tongue is oval; the granules of the back are more evenly distributed and not as prominent; the back is a brownish gray with bold black mottling, the round light spots occur in the same position as on the type but are much more distinct.

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PLATE I

Allophryne ruthveni. Type, x3.



