



## **New record and distribution extension of *Hypsiboas crepitans* (Wied-Neuwied, 1824) (Anura, Hylidae) to the northern part of the state of Piauí, Brazil**

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**Resumo.** Novo registro e extensão da distribuição de *Hypsiboas crepitans* (Wied-Neuwied, 1824) (Anura, Hylidae) para o norte do estado do Piauí, Brasil. Relatamos o aumento da extensão da distribuição geográfica de *Hypsiboas crepitans* (Amphibia, Anura) na região do Delta do Rio Parnaíba, no município de Parnaíba, Estado do Piauí, nordeste do Brasil. Dois indivíduos adultos, apresentando comprimento rostro-cloacal (CRC) de 51,2mm e 47,6mm, foram coletados em uma área úmida nas proximidades do Rio Igarçu (2°53'54 .80 "S e 41°45'30 0,97" W), ampliando a distribuição conhecida de *H. crepitans* 450 km a norte.

**Palavras-chave:** Distribuição; Parnaíba; Delta; Anuros.

**Abstract.** We report an increase of the extension of the geographical distribution of *Hypsiboas crepitans* (Amphibia, Anura) in the region of the Parnaíba Delta River, municipality of Parnaíba, state of Piauí, northeastern Brazil. Two adult individuals, presenting snout-vent length (SVL) of 51.2 mm and 47.6 mm, were collected in a wet area in proximity to the Igarçu River (2°53'54.80"S and 41°45'30.97"W), increasing the known distribution of *H. crepitans* by 450 km northwards.

**Key words:** Distribution; Parnaíba; Delta; Frogs.

*Hypsiboas crepitans* (Wied-Neuwied, 1824) is a hylid treefrog that belongs to the *Hypsiboas faber* species group (*sensu* Faivovich *et al.*, 2005), whose type-locality is Tamburil, Condeúba Municipality in the southern state of Bahia (Bokermann, 1966) (Figure 1A). Although considered a common species, information on its biology and ecology is scarcely available (Casal & Juncá, 2008). This species is currently, registered as two distinct populations, one of them in Panamá, north of Colombia, Venezuela, north of Brazil, in the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, and in great part of the Guyanas. The second population is present at the Atlantic Forest of Brazil (Frost, 2011). Due to its wide geographic distribution and to the large inter-population variability of color patterns, body size, advertisement call and reproductive biology, some authors have discussed the existence of several species known as *H. crepitans* (Faivovich *et al.*, 2005; Casal & Juncá, 2008; Martins *et al.*, 2009).

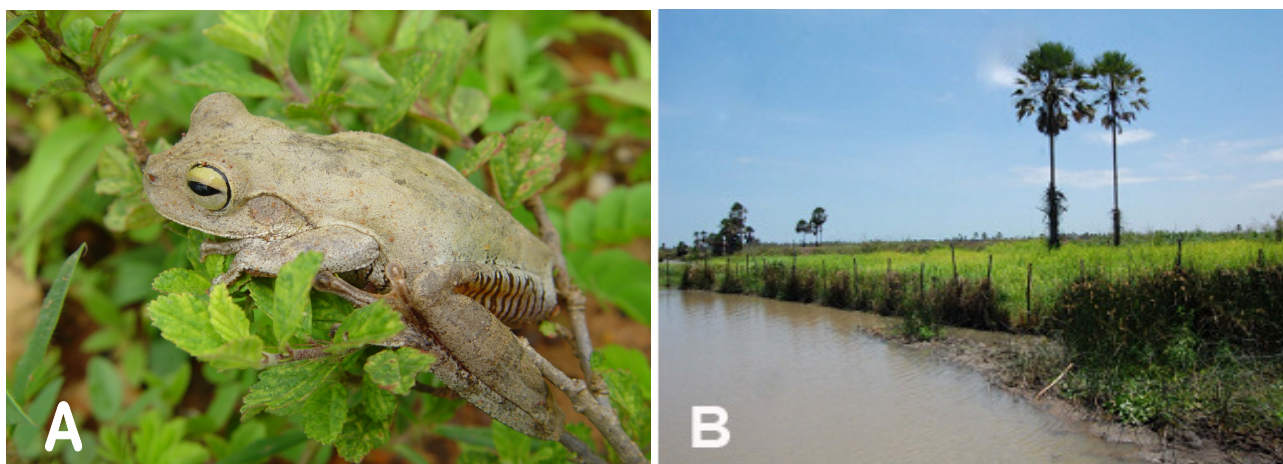
During an expedition set to characterize the fauna and the distribution of amphibians in the Parnaíba Delta River region, at the northernmost of the state of Piauí, two adult specimens of *H. crepitans* were collected (SLV = 51.2 mm and 47.6 mm), on the marginal vegetation (Figure 1-A), in September of 2010, in the city of Parnaíba, PI, Brasil. Voucher species were deposited in the Coleção Herpetológica Delta do Parnaíba (CHDP) at Universi-

dade Federal do Piauí – CMRV/UFPI, Parnaíba, Brazil (IBAMA license number 17727-1/2008), under the register numbers CHDP-0684 and CHDP-0585. One of the specimens was collected in a wet area at the shores of the Igarçu River (2°53'54.80" S and 41°45'30.97" W) and the other individual was collected at Ilha Grande de Santa Isabel (2°53'52.65"S and 41°47'13.90"W), approximately 3 km away from the first site, both collected in the city of Parnaíba-PI, Brazil.

The species was identified by comparing morphologic characteristics and the literature available. It was later confirmed by two experts.

The fitofisionomy of the area (Figure 1-B) is characterized by a group of small islands composed of *Juncus effusus* Linnaeus (soft rush) and aquatic macrophyte, mainly of the *Eichhornia crassipes* (Martius) Solms-Laubach (water hyacinth) and *Typha domingensis* Pers. (cumbungi) species. The place where the second specimen was collected is an anthropized rural area with vegetation composed mainly of *Copernicia cerifera* (Miller) H.E. Moore (carnauba) presenting wet areas only during the rainy period (March to July).

The new register confirms the lack of studies in the northeast region of Brazil and justifies the preoccupation with the characterization of the amphibian communities of the



**Figure 1.** Adult of *Hypsiboas crepitans* (A). Shore of Igarçu River, gathering spot of *Hypsiboas crepitans* (B).

state of Piauí, which is still very recent (Andrade *et al.*, 2011; Leite Jr, *et al.*, 2008; Silva *et al.*, 2007) and occurs in a fragmented way in different regions.

The lack of information about the species decreases the exchange of information on local diversity in the scientific community and generates a misunderstanding that there is a low variety of amphibians in the region, which is what may have happened in the case of *H. crepitans* since there were no records of this species in the coast of the state of Piauí.

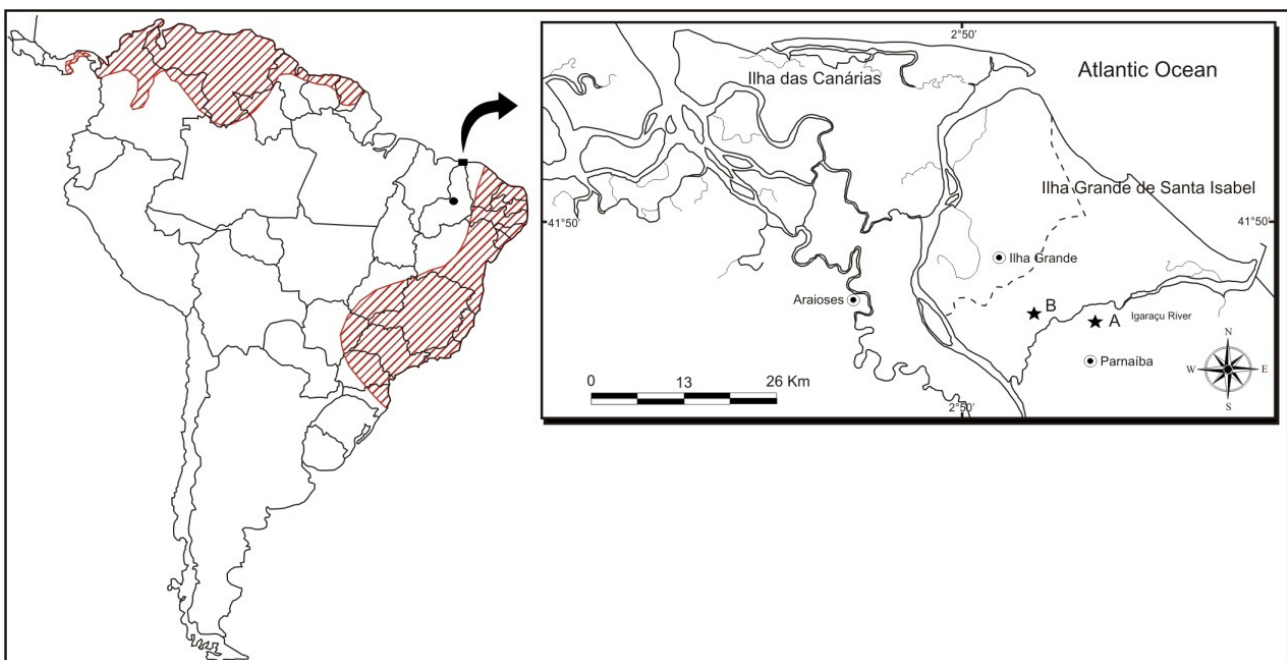
This new report extends the geographical distribution of *H. crepitans* 450 km to the northeast in a straight line from the municipality of Floriano, Piauí, site of the first record for the state (Zaher, 2001) that was the only registry for the State and decreases the distribution gap in relation to the populations found in the oriental region of Brazil and in the north portion of South America (Figure 2). This distribution shows that *H. crepitans* is no longer restricted to areas of Cerrado in the state, as it was found in wet areas near the Piauí coast.

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**Figura 2.** Distribution of *Hypsiboas crepitans* according to the IUCN (2010). The circle indicates the first register of the species in the state of Piauí, and the A and B spots on the map, represented by a star, indicate the new registers for the Piauí coast. The dotted line represents the political division between the cities of Ilha Grande and Parnaíba.

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