Other Contributions Nature Notes

## LITERATURE CITED

CAMPBELL, J. A. 1998. Amphibians and Reptiles of Northern Guatemala, the Yucatán, and Belize. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, United States.

Lee, J. C. 2000. A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of the Maya World: The Lowlands of Mexico, Northern Guatemala, and Belize. Comstock Publishing Associates, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, United States.

Leenders, Twan. 2016. Amphibians of Costa Rica: A Field Guide.

A Zona Tropical Publication, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, United States.

LOURENÇO, W. R., AND W. D. SISSOM. 2000. Scorpiones. Pp. 115—135 *In* J. Llorente-Bousquets, E. Gonzales-Soriano, and N. Papavero (Eds.), Biodiversidad, Taxonomía y Biogeografía de Artrópodos de México: Hacia una Síntesis de su Conocimiento, Volume 2. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and Bayer, México, D.F., Mexico.

Pinkus-Rendón, M. A., P. Manrique-Saide, and H. Delfín-González. 1999. Alacranes sinantrópicos de Mérida, Yucatán, México. Revista Biomédica, 10: 153–158.

## JORGE ARMÍN ESCALANTE-PASOS

Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Ciudad Universitaria, C.P. 04510, Ciudad de México. Mexico. E-mail: j.escalantepasos@gmail.com

Rana juliani. Vocalization. Frogs typically produce calls with the aid of a vocal sac (Hayes and Krempels, 1986; Vitt and Caldwell, 2014). Vocal sacs enable a frog to call efficiently (Bucher et al., 1982) and increase the conspicuousness of the call (Gridi-Papp, 2008), although they do not serve as cavity resonators as is popularly believed (Bucher et al., 1982; Rand and Dudley, 1993; Gridi-Papp, 2008). In addition to aiding in vocalization, vocal sacs can serve multiple communication functions as visual cues (Narins et al., 2003), vibrational cues (Lewis et al., 2001), and chemical signals (Starnberger et al., 2013; Starnberger et al., 2014). In frog species where vocalization does not play a large role in communication, other methods of signaling are used (e.g., foot signaling; Lindquist and Hetherington, 1996). Nevertheless, there are examples of frogs without vocal sacs that vocalize, albeit usually at a reduced volume (Hayes and Krempels, 1986).

On 5 March 2016, along Dry Creek (17°03'06.6"N, 88°34'07.9"W; UTM; elev. 184 m) near Hummingbird Highway in Middlesex, Belize, VK observed an adult *Rana juliani* produce a distress call while being handled (Fig. 1). On 21 June 2016, further upstream on Dry Creek (17°02'16.6"N, 88°33'49.5"W; UTM; elev. 500 m) KLJ observed six additional individuals produce a distress call when handled. *Rana juliani* lacks a vocal sac and vocal slits, and the original description noted that vocalizations are not known (Hillis and de Sá, 1988). To the best of our knowledge, no other reports of *R. juliani* vocalization exist.

A vocal sac and the presence of slits varies slightly in a sister species (*R. vaillanti*) that vocalizes (Hillis and de Sá, 1988; Hillis and Wilcox, 2005). In Hillis and de Sá's (1988) description, 88.7% of the specimens of *R. vaillanti* examined had vocal sacs and slits, yet they did not state whether individuals that lacked vocal sacs and slits vocalized or not. *Rana vaillanti* produces distress calls (Guyer and Donnely (2005), and if vocal sac-less individuals are able to vocalize, the mechanism might be similar in *R. juliani*.



**Fig. 1.** A *Rana juliani* observed vocalizing at Dry Creek, Middlesex, Belize. A video of the distress call is available at the following address: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNaTFL2rSSM&feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNaTFL2rSSM&feature=youtu.be</a>

© Vanessa Kilburn

Other Contributions Nature Notes

*Acknowledgments.*—We thank the Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society (T.R.E.E.S.) Hosting Center for accommodations and staff assistance in the field, and Alexander Shepack for comments on the manuscript.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Bucher, T. L., M. J. Ryan, and G. A. Bartholomew. 1982. Oxygen consumption during resting, calling, and nest building in the frog *Physalaemus pustulosus*. Physiological Zoology 55: 10–22.
- Gridi-Papp, M. 2008. The structure of vocal sounds produced with the mouth closed or with the mouth open in treefrogs. The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America 123: 2,895–2,902.
- GUYER, C., AND M. A. DONNELLY. 2005. Amphibians and Reptiles of La Selva, Costa Rica, and the Caribbean Slope: A Comprehensive Guide. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, United States.
- HAYES, M. P., AND D. M. KREMPELS. 1986. Vocal sac variation among frogs of the genus *Rana* from western North America. Copeia 1986: 927–936.
- HILLIS, D. M., AND R. DE SÁ. 1988. Phylogeny and taxonomy of the *Rana palmipes* group (Salientia: Ranidae). Herpetological Monographs 2: 1–26.
- HILLIS, D. M., AND T. P. WILCOX. 2005. Phylogeny of the New World true frogs (*Rana*). Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 34: 299–314.
- Lewis, E. R., P. M. Narins, K. A. Cortopassi, W. M. Yamada, E. H. Poinar, S. W. Moore, and X. Yu. 2001. Do male

- White-lipped Frogs use seismic signals for intraspecific communication? American Zoologist 41: 1,185–1,199.
- LINDQUIST, E. D., AND T. E. HETHERINGTON. 1996. Field studies on visual and acoustic signaling in the "earless" Panamanian Golden Frog, *Atelopus zeteki*. Journal of Herpetology 30: 347–354.
- NARINS, P. M., W. HÖDL, AND D. S. GRABUL. 2003. Bimodal signal requisite for agonistic behavior in a dart-poison frog, *Epipedobates femoralis*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 100: 577–580.
- RAND, A. S., AND R. DUDLEY. 1993. Frogs in helium: the anuran vocal sac is not a cavity resonator. Physiological Zoology 66: 793–806.
- STARNBERGER, I., D. POTH, P. S. PERAM, S. SCHULZ, M. VENCES, J. KNUDSEN, ET AL. 2013. Take time to smell the frogs: vocal sac glands of reed frogs (Anura: Hyperoliidae) contain species-specific chemical cocktails. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society 110: 828–838.
- Starnberger, I., D. Preininger, and W. Hödl. 2014. The anuran vocal sac: a tool for multimodal signalling. Animal Behaviour 97: 281–288.
- VITT, L. J., AND J. P. CALDWELL. 2014. Herpetology: An Introductory Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles. 4th ed. Academic Press, Elsevier, San Diego, California, United States.

## CONNOR M. FRENCH<sup>1</sup>, VANESSA KILBURN<sup>2</sup>, AND KRISTA L. JÄGER<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, 1125 Lincoln Drive, Life Science II, Room 256, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, United States. E-mail: connor.french@siu.edu (Corresponding author)

<sup>2</sup>Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society, 27.5 Miles Hummingbird Highway, Middlesex, Stann Creek, Belize.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, 1355 Oxford Street, Life Science Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2, Canada.

**Smilisca sordida** (Peters, 1863). Diet. The Drab Treefrog, *Smilica sordida*, is a species with a distribution extending from Honduras to western Panama, as well as in the Magdalena Valley of Colombia, at elevations from sea level 1,525 m (Savage, 2002; Köhler, 2011). During the breeding season, males of this species prefer to perch at the level of the water or a few centimeters higher, where they vocalize to attract females or to reclaim their territories, and females normally are found perched at 1m or more in height (MAGC, pers. observ.). During amplexus, females construct basins in which to deposit their eggs (Malone, 2004). Males of *S. sordida* are smaller (maximum snout–vent length [SVL] 45 mm) than females (maximum SVL 65 mm) (Duellman and Trueb, 1966).

Predation of anurans on other vertebrates mainly has been recorded in the larger species, and is relatively uncommon in smaller species or individuals (Franca et al., 2004). The diet of Neotropical hylids primarily is based on terrestrial arthropods of various sizes and is directly related to the size of the anuran (Malone, 2006), and predatory events on fishes have not been recorded in most of these hylids (de Paula Lima et al., 2010).