

# *CRYPTOBATRACHUS BOULENGERI* (BOULENGER'S BACKPACK FROG) LATITUDINAL AND ALTITUDINAL RANGE EXTENSION

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**Abstract:** A new distribution record for the frog *Cryptobatrachus boulengeri* (Anura: Hemiphractidae) is reported in this short note. The new record expand the distribution range of this species more than 60 Km eastward from nearest previously reported place and lowering its lower altitudinal distribution range from 360 down to 250 m elevation.

**Key words:** Amphibia, Anura, Hemiphractidae, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia.

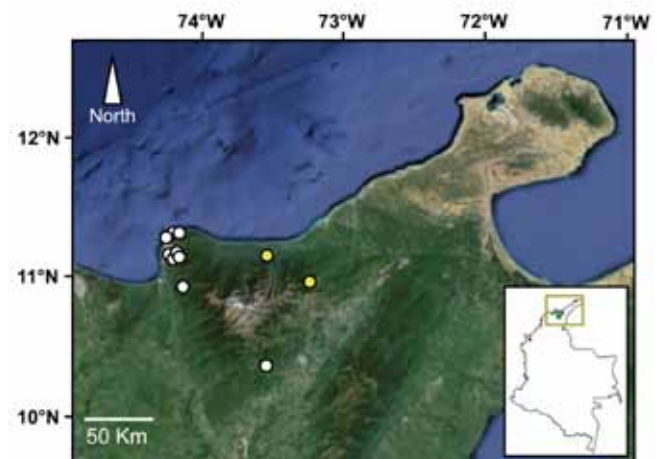
**Resumen:** L.A. Rueda-Solano y F. Vargas-Salinas. "*Cryptobatrachus boulengeri* (Rana cargadora de Boulenger) Extension de rango latitudinal y altitudinal". Un nuevo registro para la rana *Cryptobatrachus boulengeri* (Anura: Hemiphractidae) es reportado en esta nota corta. Los nuevos registros expanden el rango de distribución conocido para esta especie en más de 60 Km al este de la localidad más cercana y extiende su rango altitudinal de 360 a 250 m de altitud.

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Cryptobatrachus* (Hemiphractidae) is composed of six species distributed in Colombia and Venezuela, northern of South America (Lynch 2008, Frost 2014). Among those species, *C. boulengeri* Ruthven (1916) is an endangered frog species (Stuart *et al.* 2008) endemic to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, an isolated mountain range in Caribbean Colombia with wet montane habitats surrounded by dry forests in adjacent lowlands (Espinal and Montenegro 1963, Ruiz-Carranza *et al.* 1996). This species has been recorded on rocks within fast-flowing streams and near waterfalls between 360 - 1790 m elevation (Lynch 2008, Acosta-Galvis 2014 and cites therein). Here, we report new localities for *C. boulengeri*, which extends its latitudinal and altitudinal distribution.

## THE NEW RECORD

We observed two individuals of *Cryptobatrachus boulengeri* (Fig. 1) in fast flowing streams located at the indigenous village of Guamaca, middle basin of Rio Rancheria (10°59'1.53"N, 73°11'59.85"W; 1100 m elevation) and five individuals at the indigenous small village of Tugeka, lower basin of Rio Ancho (11°8'55.41"N, 73°29'37.86"W; 250 m elevation), both localities in the department of La Guajira, north of Colombia. Our records were made in February 2009 and July 2012, respectively. A voucher was deposited in the Herpetological collection of the Universidad del Magdalena, Santa Marta, Colombia (CBUMAG-A 310). A non-collected specimen is depicted in Fig. 1.



**FIG. 1.** Distribution map of *Cryptobatrachus boulengeri* in Colombia White dots in the map are historical records of the species (based on Acosta-Galvis 2014, and cites therein); Yellow dots are the new records in this study. Image of the map adapted from [www.earth.google.es](http://www.earth.google.es).

*Mapa de distribución de Cryptobatrachus boulengeri en Colombia. Círculos blancos en el mapa son registros históricos para la especie (basados en Acosta-Galvis 2014, y citas aquí); círculos amarillos son los nuevos registros en este estudio. Imagen del mapa adaptada de [www.earth.google.es](http://www.earth.google.es)*

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**FIG.2.** Male of *Cryptobatrachus boulengeri* recorded on the indigenous village of Guamaca, middle basin of Rio Rancheria, La Guajira, Colombia (individual no collected). Photo by L.A. Rueda-Solano.

*Macho de Cryptobatrachus boulengeri registrado en la aldea indígena de Guamaca, cuenca media del río Rancheria, La Guajira, Colombia (ejemplar no capturado). Foto de L.A. Rueda - Solano.*

Our records expand the reported distribution range of *C. boulengeri* more than 60 Km from nearest place in departments of Cesar and Magdalena towards a slope of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta on the department of La Guajira (Fig. 1). Additionally, our records document the lowest altitudinal distribution range for the species, lowering this value from 360 down to 250 m elevation.

To know the extend of distribution for endemic endangered species like *C. boulengeri* is important in order to establish conservation strategies. In addition, we hope our records expand opportunities to study ecological and behavioural aspects of this little known species and the genus to which it belongs.

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