

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

NELSON, CRAIG E. 1973. *Gastrophryne pictiventris*.*Gastrophryne pictiventris* (Cope)
Southern narrow-mouthed toad

Engystoma pictiventre Cope, 1886:272. Type by original designation, U. S. National Mus. 14196, juvenile (examined by author). Type-locality originally "Nicaragua," emended by Savage (1973) to "between El Castillo and San Juan del Norte along the Río San Juan . . . Departamento Río San Juan, Nicaragua." Type collected between January and April, 1885, by John F. Bransford (Savage, 1973).

Gastrophryne pictiventris: Stejneger, 1910:166.

Engystoma pictiventris: Nieden, 1926:64, 66.

Microhyla pictiventris: Parker, 1934:126, 146.

Gastrophryne pictiventre: Villa, 1971:26.

• CONTENT. The species is monotypic.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. *Gastrophryne pictiventris* differs from *G. elegans* in coloration and from the other species in the genus in foot structure and coloration. The ventral coloration consists of a brown background with smooth edged, white spots or blotches generally separated by at least their shortest diameter from adjacent spots. There is no dark inguinal spot. The diagnostic features of the hind foot are: a single metatarsal tubercle, rudimentary webs (extending approximately to the proximal joint of the fourth toe), and the tips of outer toes flattened dorsoventrally and slightly dilated laterally.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Cope's (1886) description is repeated in part or whole by Günther (1900), Nieden (1926), Parker (1934), and Taylor (1952). Two additional specimens are briefly described by Dunn, Trapido, and Evans (1948) and Dunn (1949). Nelson (1972) summarizes variation of additional specimens. No eggs or tadpoles are known. The mating call is a prolonged "baa" (N. Scott, personal comm.).

The venter is described above (Diagnosis). The ventral and dorsal colorations are separated by a broad, dark brown, lateral band which passes from the tip of the snout, above the nostril, through the middle of the eyes and above the shoulder, to the groin and the anterior face of the thigh. This dark band is bordered dorsally by an indistinct light stripe above which the brown dorsal coloration is lighter than the brown of the venter. The dorsum is unmarked or has a faint irregular inverted-V of darker brown. The thighs bear two parallel dark bands. Secondary sexual characters include a dark throat, larger webs, and pustules on the chin in males and perianal pustules and larger body size in females (17 males 25.1 to 30.8 mm, mean 26.8 mm; 8 females 27.3 to 37.2 mm, mean 32.6 mm) (Nelson, 1972).

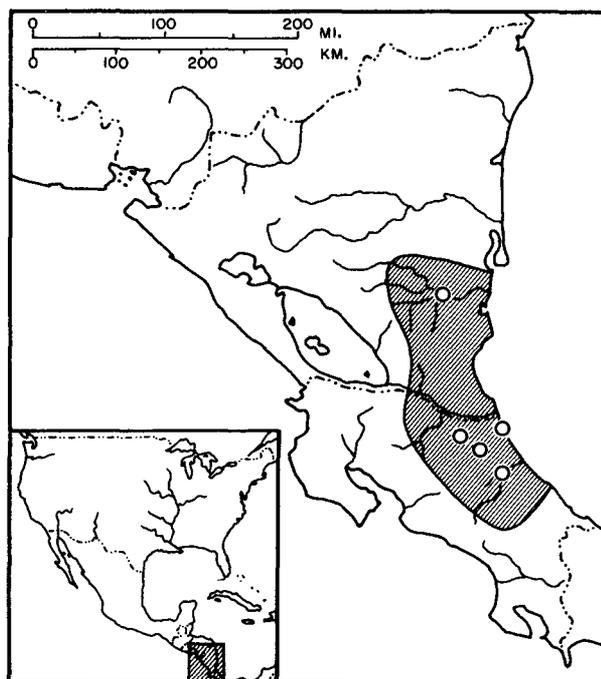
• ILLUSTRATIONS. This species has not been previously illustrated.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Gastrophryne pictiventris* occurs in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. In addition to the type-locality it is known from Zelaya, Nicaragua, at 50 miles above Bluefields on the Río Escondido (Dunn, Trapido, and Evans, 1948); from Limón, Costa Rica at Cariari and at Tortuguero (Nelson, 1972); and from Heredia, Costa Rica at 1½ miles south of Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí at about 100 meters elevation (Nelson, 1972), and from the Río Reventazon (Dunn, Trapido, and Evans, 1948).

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Gaige (in Stuart, 1934) compares *G. elegans* with *G. pictiventris*. Savage (1966) notes that *G. pictiventris* is a member of the eastern Middle American endemic faunal group. Villa (1972) partially summarizes the literature.

The known localities are in wet and very wet tropical and subtropical forests (Nelson, 1972). Dr. Norman Scott (personal communication) reports a chorus of *G. elegans* calling while floating in a pool in primary forest at Puerto Viejo. Stomach contents are ants (Nelson, unpublished).



MAP. Circles indicate locality records. The type-locality is not plotted.



FIGURE. *Gastrophryne pictiventris*: Univ. Southern California, left to right: CRE 2970 (dorsal view), CRE 2970D, CRE 2970, CRE 2970E (ventral views), all from 1½ miles south of Puerto Viejo, Heredia, Costa Rica.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The Latin words *picta*, decorated or colored, and *ventris*, belly, are combined in *pictiventris*. This clearly refers to the handsome ventral coloration. The vernacular name was selected in reference to the southern distribution of this species.

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