

AMPHIBIA: ANURA: BUFONIDAE

Peltophryne lemur

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Díaz-Lameiro, A.M., J.L. Herrera, D. Barber, R. Powell, and F. Bird-Pico. 2010. *Peltophryne lemur*.

***Peltophryne lemur* (Cope)**
Puerto Rican Crested Toad, Sapo Concho

Peltophryne lemur Cope 1868:311. Type-locality, "Puerto Rico". Holotype, unlocated (see **Nomenclatural History**).

Peltophryne gutturosus: Peters 1876:709.

Bufo gutturosus: Gundlach 1881:314.

Bufo panayensis Seoane 1881:12. Type-locality, "Panay [Philippines]". Holotype, unlocated (see **Remarks**).

Bufo lemur: Stejneger 1904:570.

Bufo turpis Barbour 1917:102. Type-locality, "Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands." Holotype, Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) 4099, adult, collected by J.L. Peters in February 1917 (not examined by authors).

Peltophryne lemur: Pregill 1981a:273.

- **CONTENT.** *Peltophryne lemur* is monotypic (Beauchamp et al. 2009), although northern populations (now extirpated; Johnson 1999) are distinct from the southern populations on Puerto Rico (CBSG 2005).

- **DEFINITION.** *Peltophryne lemur* is a moderately sized toad, with females measuring to 120 mm SVL and males to ~85 mm (Rivero 1998). The snout is short and flattened, projecting far beyond the mouth. The upper "lip" forms a strongly projecting bony rim (lores and canthi rostrales are very concave). Supraciliary cranial crests are well elevated. The dorsum is covered with numerous, subrounded tubercles with rugose surfaces (Schwartz and Henderson 1991; Matos-Torres 2006).

The dorsal ground color typically is a dull clay color with a strong olive wash, although some individuals are dark olive or yellow to grayish. The venter is tan, dirty white, or flesh-colored posteriorly, and strongly reddish on the undersides of the thighs (Schwartz



FIGURE 1. *Peltophryne lemur* in amplexus in the Guanica National Forest (photograph by J.P. Segarra).



FIGURE 2. An adult female *Peltophryne lemur* in the Guanica National Forest (photograph by Carlos Pacheco).



FIGURE 3. Juvenile *Peltophryne lemur* in the Guanica National Forest (photograph by Carlos Pacheco).

and Henderson 1991; Matos-Torres 2006).

Sexual dimorphism is pronounced (Rivero et al. 1980; Rivero and Segui 1992). Females are notably larger than males and bears more prominent cranial crests. Males usually have a more yellowish ground color and proportionately larger "warts."

- **DIAGNOSIS.** *Peltophryne lemur* can be distinguished from the only other toad found in Puerto Rico (*Rhinella* [formerly *Bufo* or *Chaunus*] *marina*; Frost et al. 2006; Chaparro et al. 2007) by the following combination of characteristics: more prominent cranial crest, smaller size (SVL of *R. marina* can exceed 200 mm), a "snorkel-shaped" nose, inferior "shark-like" mouth, and small, round paratoid glands (those of *R. marina* are as long as the head and taper posteriorly) (Rivero 1978, 1998; Rivero and Segui 1992).

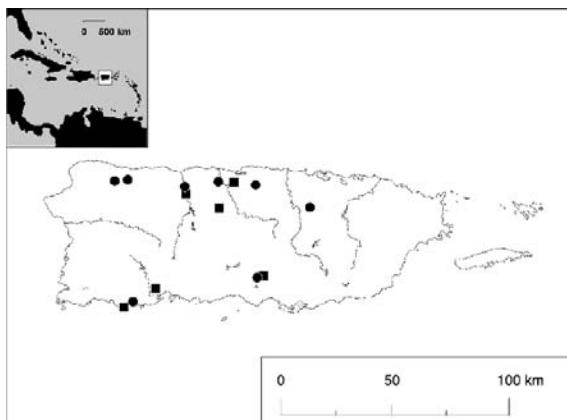
- **DESCRIPTIONS.** In addition to the original description by Cope (1868), other descriptions are in Schmidt (1920, 1928), Rivero (1978, 1998), Rivero et al. (1980), Schwartz and Henderson (1991), and Lentini (2003).

- **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Color photographs are in Rivero (1978, 1998), Rivero and Segui (1992), Fraser (2003), Anonymous (2005), Barber (2007a,b, 2008),



FIGURE 4. Metamorphosing *Peltophryne lemur* in the Guanica National Forest (photograph by Carlos Pacheco).

and Johnson and Barber (2008). Grant (1932a), Rivero (1978), Rivero et al. (1980), Olsen (1984), Schwartz and Henderson (1985), Capo (1991), Anonymous (1991), Rivero and Segui (1992), Johnson (1994), CBSG (2003), Joglar (2003), Delgado-Esquelin (2006), Maldonado-Arigoitia (2006), and Henderson and Powell (2009) included black-and-white photographs. Stejneger (1904), Schmidt (1928), Joglar (1998), CBSG (2003), and Lentini (2003) included line drawings. Line drawings of the skull are in Pramuk (2000), and Pramuk (2002) also included line drawings of vertebrae, the pelvis, and phalanges. Photographs of the skull are in Pregill (1981a). Line drawings of a tadpole are in Rivero and Segui (1992). Black-and-white photographs of tadpoles are in Delgado-Esquelin (2006) and Maldonado-Arigoitia (2006). Color photographs also are available on-line at <<http://www.sapoconcho.com>>, <<http://www.crestedtoadssp.org/gal/main.php/v/toad/>>, and <<http://www.kingsnake.com/westindian/metazoa9.html>>.



MAP. Distribution of *Peltophryne lemur* (modified from Lentini 2003): dots mark historical locality records, circles indicate localities where populations are known to be extant (see **Distribution**). The type-locality is too imprecise to plot.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Peltophryne lemur* occurred on Puerto Rico and Virgin Gorda (Schwartz and Thomas 1975; Thomas 1999; Hedges et al. 2004; Angulo

2008). One individual was found in 1978 on St. John (Norton 1997, 1998). In Puerto Rico, the species is known from a few widely scattered lowland localities, including northern and southern coastal areas (Schwartz 1978; Schwartz et al. 1978; Frost 1985; Schwartz and Henderson 1988; Joglar 1999) where it occurs in semiarid, rocky areas, especially in dry forests near the coast (Schwartz and Henderson 1991).

Historical records from Puerto Rico include Bayamon, Arecibo, Barceloneta, Vega Baja, Coamo, Ponce, Guanica, Isabela and Quebradillas (Schmidt 1928; Schwartz and Henderson 1991; Rivero 1998; Joglar 1999). Currently, the only known wild population is associated with temporary natural ponds in the Guanica National Forest and on adjacent private properties (CBSG 2005; Barber 2009). Toads were released in artificial ponds at El Tallonal Privet Nature Reserve (Flores 2008). The species is almost certainly extirpated on Virgin Gorda (MacLean 1982; W.E. Rainey in Johnson 1988), and is considered extirpated throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands (Platenberg and Boulon 2006).

Schwartz and Henderson (1991) provided a distribution map. Maps showing historical and current localities are in CBSG (2003) and Lentini (2003).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** Fossils are known from Late Pleistocene cave deposits in Camuy and Morovis, Puerto Rico (Pregill 1981b; Pregill and Olson 1981).

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** References to *Peltophryne lemur* are arranged by topic: **biogeography** (Pramuk 2001), **captive breeding** (Olsen 1984; Paine 1984, 1987, 1989; Miller 1985; Paine and Duval 1985; Johnson and Paine 1989a, 1989b; Paine et al. 1989; Smith and Paine 1989; Anonymous 1991; Capo 1991; Devision 1991; Lee 1992; Pough 1992; Johnson 1994, 1999; Wiese 1994; Wiese and Hutchins 1994; Bloxam and Tonge 1995; Thomas and Joglar 1995; Joglar 1999, 2007; Restani and Marzluff 2002; Fraser 2003; Lentini 2003, 2006; Barber 2007a,b, 2008; Crawshaw 2007; Vitt and Caldwell 2009), **comparative morphology** (Pregill 1981a; USFWS 1992; Pramuk 2000, 2002), **competition with introduced species** (Rivero 1978, 1980, 1998; Miller 1985; Paine and Duval 1985; Johnson 1989a; USFWS 1992; Wiese 1994; Ross 2007; Flores 2008), **conservation** (Raffaele 1973; Paine 1987; USFWS 1987, 1992, 2008; Johnson 1989a,b, 1999; Paine et al. 1989; Devision 1991; Lee 1992; Wiese and Hutchins 1994; Restani and Marzluff 2002; Hedges et al. 2004; Matos-Torres 2006; Barber 2007b, 2008; Crawshaw 2007; Joglar 2007; Ross 2007; Angulo 2008; Flores 2008; Johnson and Barber 2008; Milmoe 2008; USFWS 2008; Beauclerc et al. 2009; Zippel 2009), **diet** (Schmidt 1920; García-Díaz 1967; Devision 1991; Rivero and Segui 1992; Valdes et al. 1999), **diseases and parasites** (García-Díaz 1967; Ali et al. 1982; Paine et al. 1989; Crawshaw 2007), **distribution** (Moreno 1985; Barbour 1914, 1917; Schmidt 1920, 1928; Grant 1932a; Schwartz and Thomas 1975; Thomas and Thomas 1977; Rivero 1978, 1998; Schwartz 1978; Schwartz et al. 1978;

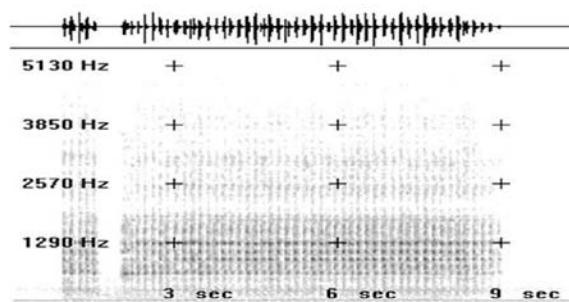


FIGURE 5. Audiospectrogram of the call of *Peltophryne lemur*.

Rivero et al. 1980; MacLean 1982; Frost 1985; Schwartz and Henderson 1985, 1988, 1991; USFWS 1987, 1992; Lee 1992; Rivero and Segui 1992; Norton 1997; Hedges 1999; Thomas 1999; Lentini 2003; CBSG 2005; Delgado-Esquelin 2006; Barber 2009), **natural history** (García-Díaz 1967; Rivero 1978, 1998; Rivero et al. 1980; USFWS 1987; Johnson 1989a, 1999; Schwartz and Henderson 1991; Lee 1992; Hedges 1992; Norton 1998; Henderson and Powell 1999, 2009; Lentini 2003; Hedges et al. 2004; Crawshaw 2007; Ross 2007; Angulo 2008), **genetics** (Paine et al. 1989; Pramuk 2002; Beauclerc 2006; Beauclerc et al. 2009), **history** (Grant 1932a; Moreno 1985; USFWS 1987; Paine et al. 1989; Rivero and Segui 1992; Joglar 2005; Estremera 2006), **longevity in captivity** (K. Murphy in Slavens and Slavens 2003), **metamorphosis** (Rivero and Segui 1992), **phylogenetics** (Pramuk 2001, 2002; Goebel 2005), **population density** (Moreno 1985; Lentini 2003), **predation** (Johnson 1989a; Lee 1992; Flores 2008), **reasons for endangered status** (USFWS 1987; Lee 1992; Hedges 1992), **releases in Puerto Rico** (Miller 1985; Paine 1987; Johnson 1989a,b, 1990, 1999; Devision 1991; Bloxam and Tonge 1995; Paine and Duval 1985; Lentini 2000; CBSG 2003; Anonymous 2005, 2006; Delgado-Esquelin 2006; Maldonado-Arigoitia 2006; Barber 2007a,b; Joglar 2007; Flores 2008), **reproduction** (Rivero et al. 1980; Paine 1984; Moreno 1985; USFWS 1987, 1992; Hedges 1992; Rivero and Segui 1992; Johnson 1994; Rivero 1998;

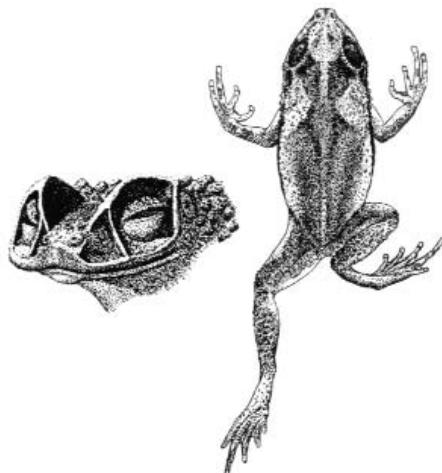


FIGURE 5. Head of *Peltophryne lemur* (from Stejneger 1904) and habitus of juveniles (from Schmidt 1928).

Joglar 2003; Maldonado-Arigoitia 2006; Matos-Torres 2006), **sexual dimorphism** (Rivero et al. 1980; Rivero and Segui 1992; USFWS 1992; Valdes et al. 1999), **systematics** (Pramuk 1999, 2001, 2002), **tadpoles** (Rivero 1980; Smith and Paine 1989), and **taxonomy** (Cope 1868; Barbour 1917; Schmidt 1920; Rivero 1978, 1998; Pregill 1981a; USFWS 1992; Crother 1999; Pramuk 2002; Frost et al. 2006).

This species also is included in **guides or checklists**, or is mentioned in longer works by Barbour (1914, 1930, 1935, 1937), Burrowes et al. (2003), Cerame-Vivas (2000), Dodd (1991), Frost (2009), Grant (1932b,c), Hass et al. (2001), Heatwole et al. (1981), Joglar (1998), Joglar and Burrowes (1996), Lazell (1983), MacLean (1977), Marcellini (1994), Neill (1958), Powell et al. (1996), Schwartz and Thomas (1975), Schwartz et al. (1978), and Tuffly and Comer (2005).

- **NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.** The original generic name (*Peltophryne*) was assigned by Fitzinger (1843). Cope (1869) described the species, but used the generic name *Peltaphryne*. Stejneger (1904) reassigned the species to *Bufo*, which prevailed until Pregill (1981) resurrected the genus *Peltophryne*. Schwartz and Henderson (1985) incorrectly used *Peltaphryne*. Subsequently, the species has been variously assigned to *Bufo* (e.g., Hedges 1992; Henderson and Powell 2009) and *Peltophryne* (e.g., Frost et al. 2006).

- **REMARKS.** Taylor (1920), speaking of *Bufo panayensis* Seaone, noted that “this species and a snake, *Piesigaster boettgeri* Seaone, were reported as originating in Panay. As a matter of fact, they are both West Indian species; the toad is *Bufo lemur*, and the snake is *Epictates inornatus* Reinhardt.”

Peltophryne lemur is listed as “critically endangered” on the IUCN Red List (Hedges et al. 2004; Angulo 2008) and as “threatened” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2008). It was listed in 1994 (Groombridge 1994) and 1996 (Baillie and Groombridge 1996) as “vulnerable.” Moreno (1991) listed it as “endangered.” See also **Distribution**.

- **ETYMOLOGY.** The species name is from the Latin for “ghost” or “spirit” (Rivero 1978, 1998); the inference is unknown.

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- Primary editor for this account, Andrew H. Price.
- Published 15 January 2010 and Copyright © 2010 by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.