

AMPHIBIA: ANURA: LEPTODACTYLIDAE

ELEUTHERODACTYLUS RUFIFEMORALIS

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

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Eleutherodactylus rufifemoralis
Noble and Hassler

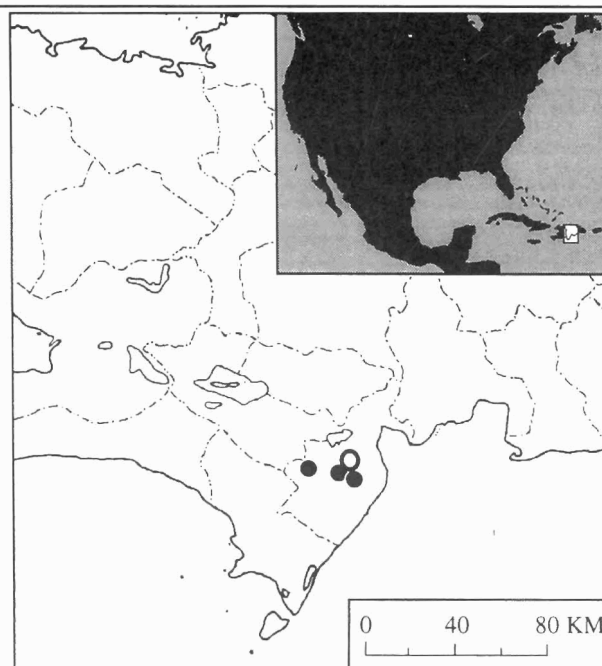
Eleutherodactylus rufifemoralis Noble and Hassler, 1933:4. Type-locality, "in a ravine above 'Salvation Station' on property of Luis E. Del Monte, near Barahona, D.R. [= Dominican Republic] at an altitude of 3000 feet." Holotype, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) 44556, an adult female (SVL = 17.5 mm) collected on 4 August 1932 by W.G. Hassler (not examined by authors). See Remark.

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** *Eleutherodactylus rufifemoralis* is a small (maximum known SVL in females to 20 mm), ground-dwelling frog in the *rufifemoralis* group of Hispaniolan *Eleutherodactylus* (subgenus *Euhyas*). The dorsum (Schwartz and Henderson, 1991) is gray to very dark brown and mottled with black. Dorsolateral lines form golden brown to white crescents bordered with black. An irregular dark brown bar extends posteriorly and ventrally from the tympanum to the groin, where a more dorsally situated wedge-shaped bar of similar color borders the sacral area. The interocular bar is nearly black; the forearm insertion is yellow; two well-defined dark bars are found on the crus; and anterior and concealed surfaces of thighs are distinctively reddish. Several dark brown spots are on the sides of the body and bars of the same color cross the legs. The venter is charcoal to gray and spotted with white. White or gray spots mark the upper and lower jaws. The iris is greenish golden. The testicular peritoneum is brown. Digital disks are very small.



Figure. An adult male *Eleutherodactylus rufifemoralis* (SVL = 15 mm, 0.28 g) (USNM 332274) from approximately 2 km S Tejunde on the northern slope of Loma Pie de Palo (elev. 1036-1219 m), Provincia de Barahona, República Dominicana. Photograph by S. B. Hedges.



Map. Distribution of *Eleutherodactylus rufifemoralis* (modified from Schwartz and Henderson, 1991). The circle marks the type-locality, dots indicate other records. The full extent of the range of this species in the Sierra de Baoruco is uncertain and therefore is not indicated (see Hedges, 1992).

• **Diagnosis.** *Eleutherodactylus rufifemoralis* may be distinguished from other Hispaniolan *Eleutherodactylus* by the following combination of characteristics (Henderson and Schwartz, 1984; Henderson et al., 1984): small size (maximum known SVL to 20 mm in females), small digital discs (equal in width to digits or at most barely wider than digits), dorsum without pale dorsolateral stripes, concealed surfaces of thighs reddish (in life), and venter heavily patterned with dark brown or gray to black.

• **Descriptions.** In addition to the original by Noble and Hassler (1933), descriptions may be found in Cochran (1941) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **Illustrations.** A black and white photograph was included in Hedges (1989); and line drawings of the dorsum, venter, profile, front and hind limbs, and the inside of the mouth are in Cochran (1941).

• **Distribution.** A Hispaniolan South Island endemic, this species is narrowly distributed in the eastern Sierra de Baoruco at elevations from over 700 to nearly 1400 m. The range has been illustrated in Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Cochran (1941) discussed variation among known specimens and made a brief comment on habitat. Hedges (1989) included *E. rufifemoralis* and *E. furcyensis* in the *rufifemoralis* group in his analysis of the evolution and biogeography of West Indian *Eleutherodactylus*; however, Joglar (1989) included *E. rufifemoralis* in the much larger *E. unistrigatus* group. Hedges (1992) briefly discussed speciation in *E. rufifemoralis* and *E. furcyensis*. SEA/DVS (1990) pro-

vided an index to habitats in the Dominican Republic; and SEA/DVS (1992) noted the presence of this species in a survey of natural resources of the eastern Sierra de Baoruco.

The species is included in additional checklists and/or guides by Barbour (1935, 1937), Duellman (1993), Frost (1985), Powell et al. (1996), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988), Schwartz and Thomas (1975), and Schwartz et al. (1978).

• **Remarks.** The sex of the holotype was given as a male by Noble and Hassler (1933), but examination of the specimen indicated that it, in fact, is a female.

Frank and Ramus (1995) proposed the common name, Red-legged Robber Frog.

• **Etymology.** Although not specifically stated by Noble and Hassler (1933), the name *rufifemoralis* is from the Latin *rufus* (= red or reddish) and *femur* (= thigh), obviously in reference to the reddish coloration of the thighs in living specimens.

• **Acknowledgement.** We wish to thank Darrel R. Frost, American Museum of Natural History, for examining the holotype and confirming the sex of the specimen.

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