

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

**Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae, *Hyloscirtus tigrinus*: Distribution extension,
first department record, Cauca and Huila, Colombia**

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Hyloscirtus tigrinus was described based on four specimens collected at *Reserva Natural Castelví* (ca. 3000 m above sea level), department of Nariño, southwestern Colombia (Mueses-Cisneros and Anganoy-Criollo 2008). The original description pointed out that despite almost two years of field work in the area, *H. tigrinus* was

recorded only at the type locality; however while carrying out field work at Laguna de La Magdalena, Puracé Natural National Park, department of Cauca, the senior author collected an additional specimen of *H. tigrinus* (Figure 1), extending the geographic and altitudinal range of the species.



Figure 1. Adult female *Hyloscirtus tigrinus* (ICN 54635, 62.9 mm SVL) from Laguna de la Magdalena, department of Cauca, Colombia. Photo by Francisco López-López and Mario Montezuma.

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The new specimen of *Hyloscirtus tigrinus* (housed in the amphibian collection of the *Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia*; ICN 54635) is an adult female (snout-vent length = 62.9 mm) with numerous cream eggs and well-convoluted oviduct, collected on 26 April 2008 at the Laguna de La Magdalena (01°55'40" N, 76°35'8" W, 3467 m), between the municipalities of San Sebastián (department of Cauca) and San Agustín (department of Huila) (Figure 2A). The frog was captured during the morning in the littoral zone.

Typical moor vegetation covered the area (Figure 2B), mainly composed by grasses, bamboos, and sedges (*Chusquea tesellata*, *Calamagrostis* sp., *Carex* sp.), mixed with mosses and liverworts (*Breutelia* sp., *Herbertus* sp., *Sphagnum* sp., *Campylopus richardii*). This environment greatly differs from the habitat at the type locality, a patch

of upper montane Andean forest next to a small stream (Mueses-Cisneros and Anganoy-Criollo 2008).



Figure 2. (A) General aspect of the Laguna de la Magdalena, and (B) of the habitat where *Hyloscirtus tigrinus* was found. Photos by Mario Montezuma

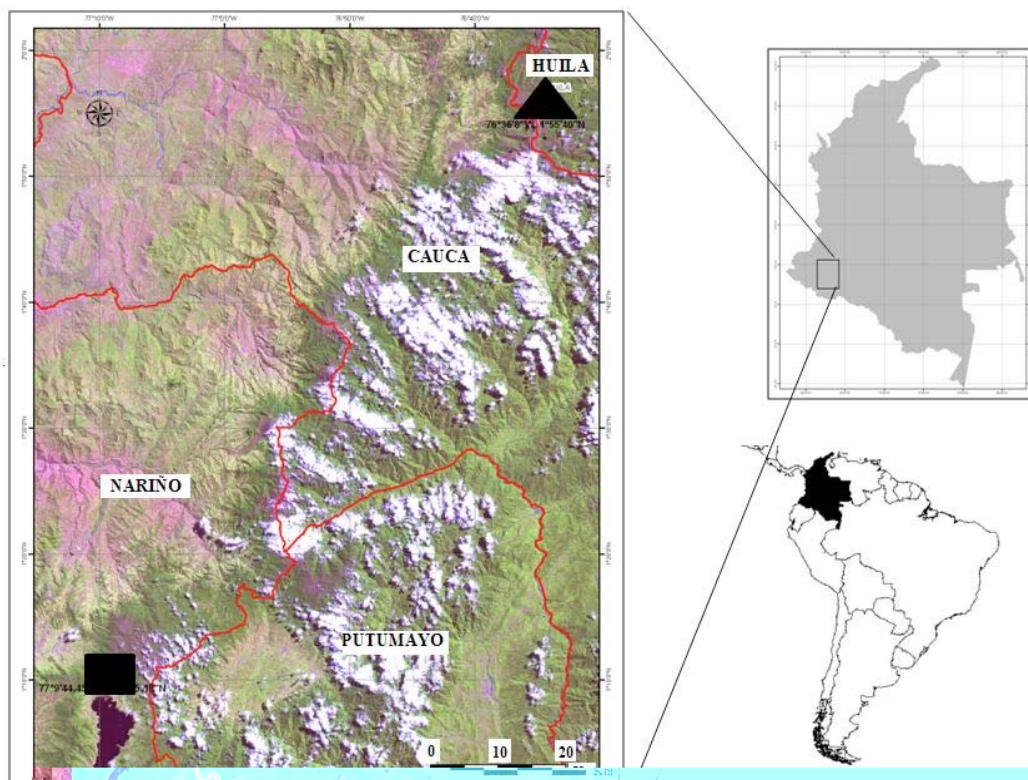


Figure 3. Geographic distribution of *Hyloscirtus tigrinus*. Square: type locality (Reserva Natural Castelví, department of Nariño). Triangle: Laguna de la Magdalena, Cauca-Huila departments.

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The morphology of the new specimen agrees well with the holotype of *Hyloscirtus tigrinus*, but its coloration is more similar to the paratypes, having a golden-yellow dorsum with abundant reticulated black marks (Figure 1). This report is the northernmost and the first state record for the species, extending its range 103 km NE from the type locality and its altitudinal range from 3060 to 3467 m (Figure 3). There is not doubt that *H. tigrinus* occurs in other places in the departments of Cauca, Huila, Nariño, and Putumayo; thus we suggest that new explorations should be carried out in the region in order to increase our

knowledge on the species and to provide more information to evaluate its conservation status.

Laguna de La Magdalena is part of a lake-moorland formation located on *Paramo de las Papas* (IGAC 1994). It is a strategic ecosystem for the country because the headwaters of the Río Magdalena (the most important river of Colombia) originate there (MINAMBIENTE 2005); however despite Laguna La Magdalena being within a protected area of Colombia, a considerable amount of trash was found mostly caused by tourism-related activities.

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