

Project Update: March 2012

This first field trip was delayed almost a month due to prevailing drought. Although the weather is still quite dry compared to the average rains for the season, we decided to launch the project anyway.

The place we chose to start our field trips is dominated by a hilly landscape, in the central-eastern part of Uruguay. Although it is being rapidly modified by the forestry industry, there remain important areas of native vegetation (riverside forests and grasslands).

We spent two full days and three nights surveying the amphibians in the area. Calling activity was really low, with only small choruses, without sustained activity, composed of one to two species: *Hypsiboas pulchellus* and *Scinax squalirostris*. However, we encountered another four species (*Leptodactylus furnarius*, *Leptodactylus ocellatus*, *Scinax granulatus*, *Limnomedusa macroglossa*, and *Pseudopaludicola falcipes*) by walking the area. Further, we heard –and recorded–, but couldn't get to see yet another species which we were not able to identify by its call. By the structure and general sound of the call it is most certainly a hylid (family Hylidae). I am currently making enquiries among colleagues to see if it can be assigned to any of the species already known to be present in Uruguay, or if it could potentially be a new species. If the latter is the case, we will further visit the area to try to photograph and film this species.

All in all, we registered either by photographs and/or acoustic recordings seven species. Although most of them are relatively common, this represents their first report for this area. Further, one of these species is of interest because at least its call was possibly unknown before, while this is the first report of the presence of *L. furnarius* in Cerro Largo department.

Captions for attached images:

Figure 1. Dashed in the inset is Cerro Largo, one of the departments limiting with Brazil.



Figure 2. Diverse landscapes. a) Upper Tacuarí River. The area is characterized by rocky outcrops in the hills, and dense native riverside forests. b) Paso de Advíncula. A few kilometers from the nascent of the Tacuarí River, the river runs, quite shallow, through the forest. c) The dominating hilly landscape, with the river (and its associated forest) running through the grassland matrix (d).

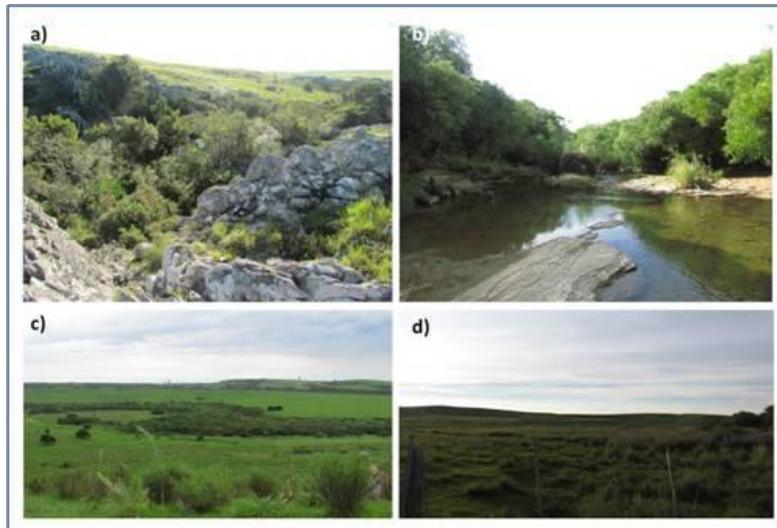


Figure 3. Pictures of some of the species found: a) *Limnomedusa macroglossa*, typically found in rocky areas, particularly in rocky riverbanks; b) *Pseudopaludicola falcipes*, a “dwarf frog”, is the smallest frog in Uruguay, about 1cm snout-vent length; c) *Scinax granulatus*; d) *Leptodactylus ocellatus*; e) *Hypsiboas pulchellus*; f) *Leptodactylus furnarius*.



Figure 4. Field work and call recording using the equipment bought for the project

