

Two new records in the diet of *Ceratophrys cornuta* Linneaus, 1758 (Anura: Ceratophryidae)

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Ceratophrys cornuta is a large terrestrial, primarily nocturnal species commonly found in terra firme forest during the rainy season (Duellman 1995; Duellman 2005). The diet of this species was analyzed in a population in the Amazonian forest in southeastern Peru by Duellman and Lizana (1994), they reported predation on a large variety of organisms that inhabit the leaf litter forest floor, including insects and some vertebrates; Vertebrate prey included frogs (*Dendropsophus parviceps*, *Pristimantis toftae*, *Rhinella margaritifera* and *Scinax ruber*), a lizard (*Ptychoglossus brevifrontalis*), an unidentified

snake, and a mice. Frogs of the genus *Ceratophrys* are commonly kept as pets, and their carnivorous habits are widely known, in captivity adults usually are fed mice. Other species of frogs have been reported to include vertebrates in their diet: an individual of the South African bullfrog *Pyxicephalus adspersus* ate 17 newly born cobras *Hemachatus haemachatus*, and another one ate a small chicken (Branch, 1976); The large tree frog *Osteocephalus taurinus* in Amazonian Colombia and Peru is known to eat small frogs (Duellman, 1995), limb bones of frogs were found in the stomach of a *Leptodactylus bolivianus* (Duellman, 1995); A *Leptodactylus pentadactylus* was reported eating frogs at Santa Cecilia, Ecuador (Duellman, 1978); Finally five vertebrate species (one unidentified tadpole, a teleostei fish, and three species of frogs—*Hypsiboas albomarginatus*, *Leptodactylus ocellatus* and *Physalaemus crombiei*) were reported as prey of *Leptodactylus ocellatus* (Teixeira and Vrcibradic 2003;

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Figure 1. Male *Ceratophrys cornuta*, trying to swallow a *Plica plica*. Photo by A. Lescano.



Figure 2. Male *Ceratophrys cornuta* CORBIDI 05148, 57.4 mm snout-vent length. Photo by P.J. Venegas.

Solé *et al.* 2009). Furthermore, a great diversity of anuran prey was found in *Hemiphractus proboscideus* at Santa Cecilia, Ecuador, where 10 of 13 stomachs contained 15 frogs of 12 species (Duellman, 1978).

In amphibians the choice of prey depends on the chance of catching a prey, for example, the analysis of stomach of *Acris crepitans* Baird (1854) in Indiana (Labanick, 1976) and terrestrial stages of *Notophthalmus viridescens* Rafinesque (1820) in New York, revealed that the abundance of food in the stomach of frogs is correlated with the relative prey abundance in the habitat (MacNamara, 1977). Despite this, the vertebrate prey mentioned before in some species of frogs, are occasional records, and do not constitute the only kind of prey ingested by these species.

At 06:00–10:00 in November 2008 near Tres Chimbadas Oxbow lake, at Infierno's Native Community (Tambopata River Basin, 12°47'15.59"S, 69°20'02.50"W, 193 masl) one of us (Lescano) observed a male of *Ceratophrys cornuta* trying to swallow an arboreal lizard *Plica plica*, which was on the ground, this specimen was observed calling the night before the record. When first observed, the *Plica* was alive; two hours later it was dead. The *Plica* (snout-vent length 61.1 mm) was visibly larger than the *Ceratophrys* (snout-vent length 58.2 mm) (Figure 1). Ingestion of the lizard was not confirmed, because the frogs was not collected.

At 13:28 on 10 August 2009 one of us (Venegas)

observed at the Inotawa Lodge, Tambopata River (12°48'31.31"S, 69°18'05.63"W, 208 m asl) a *Ceratophrys cornuta* eating a *Leptodactylus dydimus* (Figure 2). After ingesting the prey, the frog was collected and fixed in 10% formalin and stored in 70% ethanol (Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad 05148). The prey (SVL 36.3 mm) was almost two thirds of the snout-vent length of the *Ceratophrys* (male, 57.4 mm snout-vent length) and was founded in a semicircular position inside the frog's stomach.

Code for Museum collection is: CORBIDI=, Lima.

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