

Cochranella punctulata
RUIZ-CARRANZA & LYNCH, 1995 –
new record from the department of
Antioquia (Colombia), with
comments on the conservation status

During a herpetological survey carried out in the Magdalena River valley in October 2005, the authors found an individual of the poorly-known glassfrog *Cochranella punctulata* RUIZ-CARRANZA & LYNCH, 1995; Fig. 1) at Hacienda Santa Bárbara (ca. 06° 32'N / 74°38'W, between 515-575 m above sea level; 1 in Fig. 2), vereda Las Brisas, Maceo municipality, Department of Antioquia. This location is ca 70 km northeast of the nearest known record of this species (vereda La Granja, Cocorná municipality, Department of Antioquia, 06°3'N / 75°11' W, 900-930 m a.s.l.; RUIZ-CARRANZA & LYNCH 1995; 2 in Fig. 2). The female found (Museo de Herpetología Universidad de Antioquia, MHUA 4071; coll. P. D. GUTIÉRREZ-C.) was observed at night (2042 h) on herbaceous vegetation attached to rock boulders near to a small waterfall inside a secondary forest.

This glassfrog species has been listed as vulnerable (IUCN category VU B1ab(iii)), based on its small range area, fragmented distribution and the decline of its forest habitat quality (GIL & LYNCH 2004). The first two arguments are valid considering that until now there are documented records only from three disjunctive localities as indicated in the original description (departments of Antioquia, Caldas and Tolima – RUIZ-CARRANZA & LYNCH 1995; 2-4 in Fig. 2). However, we consider that the previous arguments are only an artifact of lack of surveys, since our new record suggests that there may be other unknown northern populations along the eastern flank of the Cordillera Central, to which *C. punctulata* is apparently restricted (ACOSTA-GALVIS et al. 2006; FROST 2006). This new locality indicates that this species has a more extended distribution range. On the other hand, the adverse effect of declining habitat quality on the frog's distribution range reported by GIL & LYNCH (2004) is well substantiated since in some localities of *C. punctulata* such as Samaná (Department of Caldas) and Cocorná



Figure 1: Female *Cochranella punctulata* RUIZ-CARRANZA & LYNCH, 1995 (MHUA 4071) from Vereda Las Brisas, municipio Maceo, department of Antioquia, Colombia. Photo: M. RIVERA-CORREA.

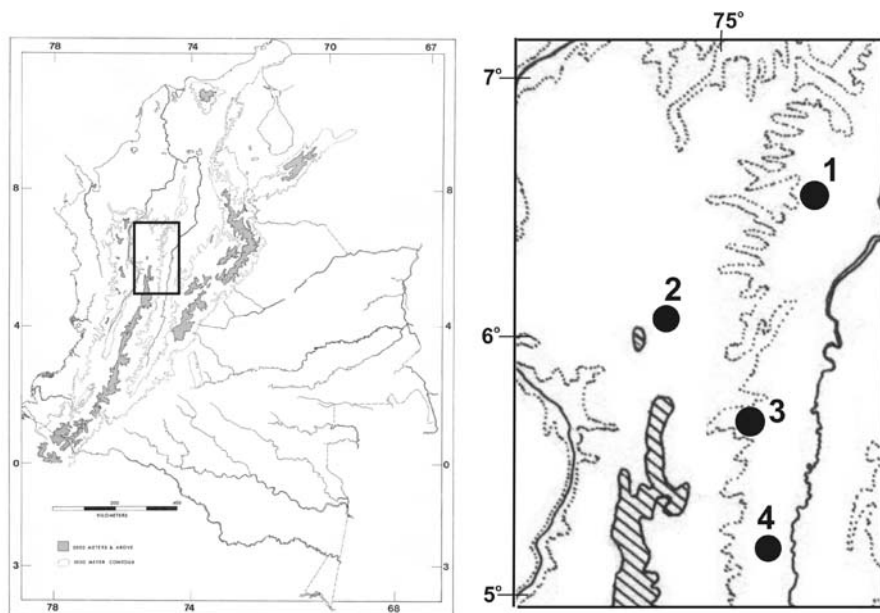


Fig. 2: Localities (municipalities and departments) reported for *Cochranella punctulata* RUIZ-CARRANZA & LYNCH, 1995. 1 - Maceo (Antioquia), the new record; 2 - Cocorná (Antioquia); 3 - Samaná (Caldas); 4 - Falán (Tolima). Localities 2-4 according to RUIZ-CARRANZA & LYNCH (1995).

(Antioquia) there is an impoverishment of the habitat caused mainly by timber logging, dam constructions (i.e., La Miel hydroelectric project in Samaná) and extensive cattle grazing.

With this note, we want to demonstrate that the discovery of new localities for this and other species considered threatened by knowing only their type localities, is essential to differentiate a declining population from a species that is ecologically rare.

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