

Natural History Notes

AGALYCHNIS CALLYDRIAS (red eyed tree frog) RANGE EXTENSION. Hylidae is a large family of tree frogs, has 926 recognized species and is characterized by having long legs and well developed digital disks in the hands and feet. In the subfamily Phyllomedusinae specifically, individuals have vertical pupils, a highly retractable tongue and eggs are normally laid on the water (Faivovich et al., 2005). *Agalychnis callidryas* (Cope, 1862) is known as the Red-Eyed Tree frog and is distinguished in life by a combination of a red iris and flanks on the body with a series of vertical stripes on a clear blue to brown background; this species is very common and its natural history has been well documented (Whittaker, 2013). *A. callidryas* is distributed from southeastern Veracruz and northern Oaxaca in Mexico to Panama (Savage, 2002; Solis, 2004). The species inhabits lowland humid rainforest and montane rainforest margins, including disturbed areas and mangrove forests. This paper reports the occurrence of this species by the North Pacific in a Costa Rican Tropical Dry Forest.

On 19 July 2012 three males were heard calling by K. V. G. to the side of a road in the

Buena Vista district (9°54'48"N, 85°31'46"W, 30 m a.s.l), near Samara Beach, Canton of Nicoya in Guanacaste province. This location is 52 km northwest of the nearest record in the Pacific: 7 km northeast of Mal Pais (Cornell University 2013. Code: CU: CUMV-Amphibian: 14213). During this visit, a mass of eggs was found (Fig. 1), but no adult specimens were observed. During a second visit on 15 September 2012, an adult male with an SVL of 57 mm (Fig. 2) was collected about 6 feet off the ground, on *Guazuma ulmifolia* (Sterculiaceae). Correct identification of the specimen was confirmed by Adrian Garcia (University of Costa Rica) and was deposited in the Museum of Zoology at the University of Costa Rica (catalogue number MZUCR- 21927)

The colour pattern of this specimen is typical of individuals found in the Central Pacific, where the colouration of the flanks, anterior and posterior thighs is orange, with blue and white colours being absent. This is similar to a pattern described by Robertson and Robertson (2008), but lacks the upper horizontal line connecting the other stripes. *A. callidryas* exhibits a marked difference in flank patterns at the regional level,



Figure 1. Egg mass of *A. callidryas* in the new location.



Figure 1. Adult male of *A. callidryas* from Samara.

because of existing biogeographic barriers that limit gene flow, thereby increasing phenotypic diversity (Robertson et al., 2009)

The location where this sample was collected is 130 m from the Rio Buena Vista. There are pastures and livestock areas present in a marshy area beside a busy road, and the area displays typical early successional vegetation, evidenced by the presence of *Guazuma ulmifolia* (De Araujo et al, 1999). This area is subject to human disturbance. The observation described here in further demonstrates that the species can survive in disturbed environments (Savage, 2002) and also that it has a great climatic tolerance. This report extends the range of *A. callidryas* in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, to an uncharacteristic xerophytic area for this species, which is not typical of Tropical Dry Forest.

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