

A NEW SPECIES OF *RHACOPHORUS* (ANURA: RHACOPHORIDAE) FROM GUNUNG GADING, SARAWAK

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ABSTRACT. – A new species of rhacophorid of the genus *Rhacophorus* is described from Gunung Gading National Park, Sarawak, western Borneo. *Rhacophorus gadingensis*, new species, is compared with congeners from Borneo and other parts of southeast Asia. The new species is diagnosable in showing the following combination of characters: SVL 29.5 mm in the larger of the two specimens known; snout obtuse, slightly projecting beyond mandible; head wider than long; fingers and toes webbed; lacking nuptial pads (in males) and a dermal flap along forearm; a weak supracloacal fold; spinose calcar present; skin not co-ossified to forehead, median lingual process absent; supratympanic fold weak; dorsum brown, with a dark interorbital bar; dark brown blotches on dorsum and flanks with blue blotches.

KEY WORDS. – *Rhacophorus*, new species, *Rhacophorus gadingensis*, Rhacophoridae, systematics, Borneo.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Rhacophorus* Kuhl & van Hasselt, 1822 (Anura: Rhacophoridae), as defined by [Brown & Alcalá \(1994\)](#), is known to contain over 60 nominal species of which at least 41 occur in southeast Asia alone ([Frost, 1985](#); [Harvey et al., 2002](#); [Inger et al., 1999](#); [Iskandar & Colijn, 2000](#); [Ohler et al., 2000](#); [Vasudevan & Dutta, 2000](#)). The members of the genus are distributed from southern China, Sri Lanka & southwestern and northeastern India south to Indo-China and Indo-Malaya ([Frost, 1985](#)). Of these, as many as 14 species have been reported from Borneo ([Inger & Stuebing, 1997](#); [Inger & Tan, 1996](#)).

The herpetofauna of Gunung Gading, a granite massif in Sarawak, western Borneo, was subject to the attention of the Italian nobleman, the Marquis Giacomo Doria of Genoa (1840–1913) and the botanist Odoardo Beccari (1843–1920), in the 1860s, incidental to their botanical collections. Herpetological material collected during this expedition were described in a series of papers by the German zoologist, Wilhelm Carl Hartweg Peters (1815–1883) of the Zoologisches Museum Humboldt-Universität, Berlin. No new rhacophorids, however, were described on the basis of these collections.

We report here a new species of *Rhacophorus*, which does not match any of the described species of the genus from Borneo and from any other part of southeast Asia, and is here described as new to science. The species is allocated to *Rhacophorus* for showing the following characters considered diagnostic for the genus, according to the concept of [Brown and Alcalá \(1994\)](#); see also, [Inger, 1966](#); [Wilkinson & Drewes, 2000](#); [Wilkinson et al., 2002](#)): fingers webbed; tips of digits disk-like, with circummarginal grooves; vomerine teeth present; and eyes large. For a critique of other concepts of the genus, where character states are not explicitly stated (e.g., [Dubois, 1986](#); 1992; [Iskandar & Colijn, 2000](#)), see [Harvey et al. \(2002\)](#).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The holotype and paratype were collected at ca. 0200–0230 hrs. photographed in life, fixed in formalin ca. four hours after collection, and subsequently washed in water and transferred to 70% ethanol about two weeks after collection. The following measurements were taken with Mitutoyo™ dial vernier callipers (to the nearest 0.1 mm) ca. four months after collection: snout-vent length (SVL, from tip of snout to vent); tibia length (TBL, distance between surface of knee to surface