

Herpetological Review

More Range Extensions for Papuan Reptiles and Amphibians

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The herpetofauna of the Papuan region—comprising New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and associated satellite islands—is extremely rich but remains relatively poorly known. Hundreds of species likely remain to be discovered, scores are known but remain to be described, geographic ranges of known species are often poorly understood, and important parts of the region remain sparsely surveyed. Recent work has considerably expanded our knowledge of species' distributional ranges in this region (Günther 2003; Kraus and Allison 2004, 2006a; Kraus and Shea 2005), but much remains to be done. Much of this recent expansion in our understanding has resulted from expeditions to previously unstudied localities. However, additional relevant information already resides in museum collections but has remained unsurveyed. Herein I report a number of significant range extensions for amphibians and reptiles from New Guinea, the majority of these records coming from the holdings of the Australian Museum in Sydney and the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, but supplemented with additional records from the Museum of Comparative Zoology and United States National Museum. Coordinates for BPBM specimens use the AGD66 datum unless otherwise noted; those from other museums are taken from their catalogues, converted by me to decimal degrees, and presumably were taken from maps using the AGD66 datum.

Frogs

Albericus darlingtoni. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Southern Highlands Prov.: E slope Mt. Itukua, Muller Range, 5.66954°S, 142.62334°E (WGS84 datum), 2177 m elev. 26–30 March 2009.

F. Kraus, J. Anamiato. BPBM 33664–33668. Range extension of ca. 125 km WNW of nearest locality at Mendi (Menzies 1999).

Albericus gunnari. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Central Prov.: Dorobisoro, 9.4592391°S, 147.9371584°E, 600 m elev. 7–8 October 2003. F. Kraus. BPBM 18347–51; halfway between Laronu and Mimai, 8.4501811°S, 147.9772933°E, 1000 m elev. 14 February 2004. F. Kraus. BPBM 19223–33. Range extension of ca. 40 km to NE of type locality (Menzies 1999).

Choerophryne burtoni. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Southern Highlands Prov.: E slope Mt. Itukua, Muller Range, 5.67046°S, 142.63038°E (WGS84 datum), 2037 m elev. 25 March 2009. native collectors. BPBM 33671. Range extension of ca. 80 km to NW of type locality at Moran area of same province (Richards et al. 2007).

Cophixalus riparius. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Madang Prov.: Fungoi, Kaironk Valley, Schrader Mts., 5.333333°S, 144.4166667°E. 14 December 1963–2 January 1964. H. G. Cogger. AMS R22667–22756. First record for province and for Schrader Mts.; range extension of ca. 80 km NW of nearest locality at Mt. Wilhelm (Zweifel 1962).

Cophixalus shellyi. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Madang Prov.: Fungoi, Kaironk Valley, Schrader Mts., 5.333333°S, 144.4166667°E. 24 December 1963. H. G. Cogger. AMS R23086, 23123. First records for Schrader Mts. and range extension of ca. 60 km NW of nearest locality at Wahgi-Sepik Divide (Zweifel 1980).

Cophixalus variabilis. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Central Prov.: Sogeri Plateau, Itikimumu Rubber Plantation. 14 November 1971. G. R. Zug. USNM 197456, 231508; Northern Prov.: 10 km NNW Popondetta. 27 December 1971. G. R. Zug. USNM 197457. First record is a range extension of ca. 20 km N of previously northernmost record along Musgrave River; second is a new provincial record and first report of species along northern versant of Owen Stanley Mts. (Kraus and Allison 2006b).

Hylarana daemeli. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: New Ireland Prov.: Napus, New Hanover Island. 29 August 1973. P. Comorford. AMS R41249; Taskul, New Hanover Island. 28 August 1973. P. Comorford. AMS R41250. First record for province (Menzies 2006).

Hylarana milneana. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Morobe Prov.: Bulolo. No date. C. Gunther. AMS R12186, 12188, 12190–95; Northern Prov.: Inamaturu, Mt. Lamington, 8°56'S, 148°10'E. No date. C. T. McNamara. AMS R9874. First records for each province, and latter is range extension of 270 km to the N; previously known only from Milne Bay and Central provinces (Kraus and Allison 2007).

Hylophorbus richardsi. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Southern Highlands Prov.: E slope Mt. Itukua, Muller Range, 5.66954°S, 142.62334°E (WGS84 datum), 2177 m elev. 20–27 March 2009. F. Kraus, J. Anamiato, and native collectors. BPBM 33756–62. Range extension of ca. 55 km to NW of type locality at Mt. Sisa (Günther 2001).

Lechriodus platyceps. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: West Sepik Prov.: summit Mt. Somoro, Torricelli Mts., 3.392°S, 142.133°E. 8 March 1990. T. Flannery. AMS R136293. Second record for country, first record for Torricelli Mts., and range extension of ca. 110 km E of

Liophryne allisoni. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Central Prov.: 2.3 km SSW Fane, 8.56933°S, 147.07675°E, 1800 m elev. 5 October 2003. F. Kraus. BPBM 18315. New provincial record and range extension of ca. 140 km to S of area around Wau (Zweifel 2000).

Litoria auae. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Southern Highlands Prov.: Bobole, 6.20°S, 142.7666667°E. October 1985. S. Donnellan. AMS R132359–71; Namosado, 6.25°S, 142.783333°E. 1985. S. Donnellan. AMS R132380–81. In describing this species and *L. kumae*, Menzies and Tyler (2004) noted that five poorly preserved specimens from these localities (in SAM) appeared to be *L. kumae*. However, all AMS specimens listed above have white spots, have lighter ground color than seen in *L. kumae*, and are larger (male SVL = 29.3–35.3, N = 12; female SVL = 34.2–39.8, N = 3) than that species; they clearly fit the diagnosis of *L. auae*. They thus bring the range of *L. auae* to at least the edge of the range of *L. kumae* and serve to fill in the gap between eastern populations of *L. auae* and the Ok Ma isolate to the west (Menzies and Tyler 2004).

Litoria kumae. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Southern Highlands Prov.: 1.2 km N Tangi, 5.64700°S, 142.65259°E (WGS84 datum), 1660 m elev. 5 April 2009. Native collectors. BPBM 33991–400. Range extension of ca. 35 km to NW of Tari for this restricted-range species (Menzies and Tyler 2004).

Litoria purpureolata. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: West Sepik Prov.: Imonda, 3.3333°S, 141.166667°E. 1 March 1990. P. German. AMS R135573; vicinity of Utai aerodrome, 3.389°S, 141.585°E, 210 m elev. 26 April 1986. A. Allison. BPBM 14463–65, 14467; base of Mt. Sumbau, 3.38333°S, 142.5333°E. 8 March 1990. P. German. AMS R135576. First records for country, and range extensions of ca. 280 km, 330 km, and 470 km E of type locality (Oliver et al. 2007).

Litoria pygmaea. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Madang Prov.: Madang. 8 September 1964. Collector unrecorded. AMS R111666. First record for province and range extension of ca. 120 km from populations in the Central Highlands (Richards and Price, 2004) and 300 km from population at Wamangu, East Sepik Province (Dahl et al. 2009).

Nyctimystes fluviatilis. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: West Sepik Prov.: Parkop, Torricelli Mts., 3.42457°S, 142.51866°E, 416 m elev. 14 May 2005. F. Kraus. BPBM 23251–52; 3.2 km SSE Mt. Sapau summit, Torricelli Mts., 3.39329°S, 142.52826°E, 550 m elev. 18–25 May 2005. F. Kraus. BPBM 23253, 23256–59, 23263–65; Wilbeite Village, Torricelli Mts., 3.416667°S, 142.116667°E, 10 June 1988. T. Flannery. AMS 130396. Western Prov.: Kavorabip, 5.133333°S, 141.1166667°E. 22 August 1972. F. Parker. MCZ 110312–13. First records for country and range extensions of ca. 450 km to E and 330 km to SE, respectively, from the type locality along the Idenburg River (Zweifel 1958).

Nyctimystes zweifeli. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Chimbu Prov.: Doido, 6.55°S, 144.83333°E. 14 April 1985. S. Donnellan. AMS R114802, 114804; Southern Highlands Prov.: Bobole, 6.20°S, 142.7666667°E. October 1985. S. Donnellan. AMS R132353–58. First records for each province and range extensions of 360 km ESE and 150 km SE of the type locality at Telefomin (Tyler 1967).

Hypsilurus hikidanus. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Chimbu Prov.: Toromambuno, Mt. Wilhelm, 5.8442028°S, 145.1018018°E. 4 July 1955. J. L. Gressitt. BPBM 2693–96. First record for country and range extension of 850 km to the east from type locality at Wissel Lakes (Manthey and Denzer 2006).

Hypsilurus longii. SOLOMON ISLANDS: Isabel Island: Alu Alu village, 8.3°S, 159.55°E. 23 February 1991. H. Parnaby and I. Aujare. AMS R137241; Kaipitu River, near Alu Alu village, 8.3°S, 159.55°E. 24 February 1991. H. Parnaby and I. Aujare. AMS R137243; Makira Island. 20 November 1987. G. Mengden. AMS R127290; Makira Island: Sgsgna village. 16 November 1987. T. Flannery. AMS R130465. New island records that extend the range of this species to the southern end of the Solomon Islands. Previously reported only from Bougainville at the NW end of the chain (Manthey and Denzer 2006). McCoy (2006) inferred that the Isabel Island specimens, which he had not seen, belonged to this species based on their large size. I confirm that presumption.

Hypsilurus macrolepis. SOLOMON ISLANDS: Choiseul Island: Malangona, 7.049°S, 156.778°E. 14 March 1964. P. Temple. BPBM 2488. New island record and range extension to NW from Santa Isabel Island (Manthey and Denzer 2006).

Hypsilurus magnus. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Central Prov.: Moitaka, Port Moresby. September 1985. S. Donnellan and K. Aplin. AMS R122448; Madang Prov.: Wariu River, 5.9592435°S, 145.86632°E, 400 m elev. 31 August 1987. C. P. Kendrick. BPBM 21635. Morobe Prov.: Tekadu, 7.664855°S, 146.5638586°E, 400 m elev. 20 October 1996. A. Allison. BPBM 13171. Southern Highlands Prov.: Bobole, 6.20°S, 142.7666667°E. October 1985. S. Donnellan and K. Aplin. AMS R122427–29, 122441, 122476; Namosado, 6.25°S, 142.783333°E. 1985. S. Donnellan and K. Aplin. AMS R122433–40, 122442–46, 12249–51, 122461–70; Fogamaiyu, 6.51666°S, 143.083333°E. December 1985. S. Donnellan and K. Aplin. AMS R122471–75; confluence of Libano and Hegigio rivers, 6.3990666°S, 142.9761333°E, 250 m elev. 4–6 August 2003. A. Allison. BPBM 28231–35. Western Highlands Prov.: Manjim, Ganz River, 5.53333°S, 144.483333°E. 16 July 1954. Troughton and Campo. AMS R14751–57; Jimi River, 5.35°S, 144.3333°E. 21 July 1954. Troughton and Campo. AMS R14761–62; Baiyer River, 5.55°S, 144.0°E. 14 August 1969. Collector unrecorded. AMS R28690; West Sepik Prov.: Trefas Village, 5.9 km N, 7.3 km E of Utai, 3.333°S, 141.651°E, 320 m elev. 22 September–23 October 1996. A. Allison. BPBM 23159, 23165, 23172; Menawa River, 8.4 km N, 11.4 km E of Utai, 3.312°S, 141.688°E, 560 m elev. 24 September 1996. A. Allison. BPBM 23161–62. First records for country (Manthey and Denzer 2006), suggesting the species is widely distributed across most of New Guinea.

Hypsilurus schultzei. INDONESIA: Papua Prov.: Bokondini, 40 km. N. of Baliem Valley, 3.63°S, 138.6°E (datum unknown), 1400 m elev. 18 November 1961. L. W. Quate and S. Quate. BPBM 3296; PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Chimbu Prov.: Goglime, 5.93333°S, 145.03333°E. No date. J. Hope. AMS R29126–28; Eastern Highlands Prov.: Roka Estate Village on Goroka-Daulo Pass Road, 6.05S, 145.4E. No date. A. K. Lee. AMS R64740–71;

Koge, 6.10°S, 145.01666°E. 16 October 1965. F. Parker. AMS R68895; Iumbafoi, 6.23333°S, 145.26666°E. 13 July 1964. Collector unrecorded. AMS R86887; Enga Prov.: Yaramanda, West Baiyer Valley, 5.61666°S, 143.91666°E. 22–28 August 1955. R. N. H. Bulmer. AMS R14849–50; Madang Prov.: Fungoi, Kaironk Valley, Schrader Mts., 5.33333°S, 144.41666°E. 14 December 1963–1 January 1964. H. G. Cogger. AMS R21190–91, 23039, 24328–30; West Sepik Prov.: Telefomin, 5.13677°S, 141.63333°E. 30 August 1963. P. Temple. BPBM 3858. First is new country record; remainder are new provincial records. Previously known with certainty only from type locality at Nondugl, Western Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea (Manthey and Denzer 2006).

Snakes

Toxicocalamus stanleyanus. MADANG PROVINCE: between Hinihon and Reinduk, 1000 m elev. 24 March 1974. G. B. Opit. BPBM 5711. First record for province; nearest record is Gulf Province ca. 300 km away on S side of Central Dividing Range (McDowell 1969; O'Shea 1996).

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