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New distribution records of the casque-headed frog *Corythomantis botoque* Marques et al., 2021 from the state of Bahia, northeastern Brazil

Henrique P. Carvalho[1,*], Caio A. S. Bonfim[1], and Alcéster D. Coelho-Lima[1,2]

The hylid genus *Corythomantis* Boulenger, 1896 currently comprises two recognised species: *Corythomantis greeningi* Boulenger, 1896 and *Corythomantis botoque* Marques et al., 2021. The range of *C. greeningi* is associated with the Caatinga and Cerrado domains, and it also occurs in transition zones with the Atlantic Forest (Godinho et al., 2013; Marques et al., 2021; Frost, 2026). *Corythomantis botoque* is found in the states of Bahia and Minas Gerais at elevations ranging between 315 and 940 m, primarily in areas associated with the Espinhaço Mountain Range (Marques et al., 2021; Frost, 2026).

So far, the only known geographical records of *C. botoque* are those reported in the original species description (Marques et al., 2021). Nevertheless, the species is likely to have a broader range (Marques et al., 2021). Here, we report two new populations of *C. botoque* from the semiarid region of the state of Bahia, Brazil (Fig. 1).

During fieldwork on 5 December 2025, we recorded 23 individuals of *C. botoque* at a stream known as Riacho Jatobá (-14.0731°S, -42.4956°W, elevation 890 m), located in the municipality of Caetité, Bahia, Brazil. On that occasion, a couple was observed in amplexus on a branch of the riparian vegetation approximately one meter above the water. Males were found vocalising in the water, either exposed or beneath rocky shelters. One female (Fig. 2A; RAN560) and one male (RAN562) were collected as voucher specimens and deposited in the herpetological collection of the Museu de Zoologia e Paleontologia of the Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia (RAN; ICMBio/IBAMA collecting permit no. 79125). Specimens were identified based on the diagnostic characters described by Marques et al. (2021). We distinguished *C. botoque* from *C. greeningi* by the absence of brown markings in the inguinal region and on the ventral and inner surfaces of the tibia.

We also recorded eight individuals of *C. botoque* in a rural area (-14.3601°S, -42.6084°W, elevation 810 m), in the municipality of Pindaí, Bahia, Brazil. The first individual was found on 3 March 2025 on a tree branch approximately two meters above the ground and near a temporary stream. On 6 January 2026, seven more

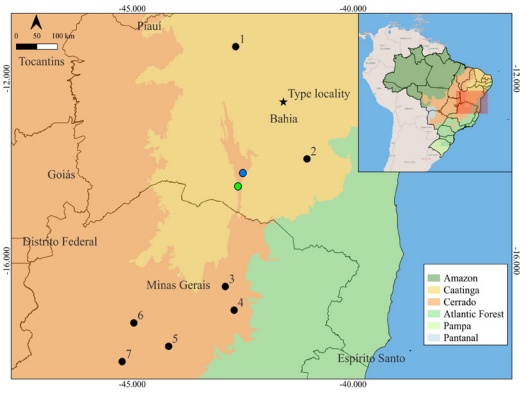


Figure 1. Range of *Corythomantis botoque* across the Brazilian domains (*sensu* IBGE, 2019). Black star = type locality in the municipality of Palmeiras, Bahia, Brazil (Marques et al., 2021); blue circle = new record from the municipality of Caetité, Bahia, Brazil; green circle = new record from the municipality of Pindaí, Bahia, Brazil; black circles indicate previously known records of the species (Marques et al., 2021) from the following municipalities: 1 = Gentio do Ouro (district of Gameleiras do Assuruá); 2 = Contendas do Sincorá; 3 = Grão Mogol; 4 = Leme do Prado; 5 = Buenópolis; 6 = Buritizeiro; and 7 = Três Marias.

[1] Laboratório de Ecologia do Semiárido, Departamento de Ciências Humanas - Campus VI, Universidade do Estado da Bahia, Caetité, Bahia 46400-000, Brazil.

[2] Laboratório de Ecologia e Comportamento Animal, Departamento de Biociências, Centro de Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde, Universidade Federal Rural do Semi-Árido, Mossoró, Rio Grande do Norte 59625-900, Brazil.

[*] Corresponding author. E-mail: henripratesbio@gmail.com

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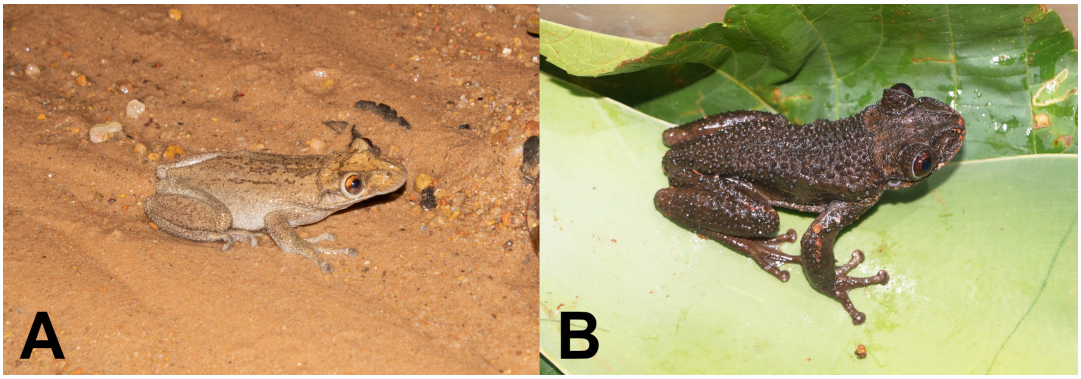


Figure 2. Specimens of *Corythomantis botoque* collected in Bahia, Brazil. (A) Female collected in the municipality of Caetité (RAN560), and (B) male collected in the municipality of Pindaí (RAN567). Photos by Alcéster D. Coelho-Lima (A) and Henrique P. Carvalho (B).

individuals were found at the same locality. They were exhibiting reproductive behaviours, including a couple in amplexus and five males that were vocalising; all individuals were in the water of the stream. One male (Fig. 2B), which was found vocalising beneath a rocky shelter in the watercourse, was collected as voucher specimen under catalogue number RAN567.

Both populations were found in lotic water bodies. These municipalities are located in the semiarid region of Bahia, within the Cerrado domain and close to its boundary with the Caatinga, forming a phytogeographical transition zone between these two domains (IBGE, 2019; SUDENE, 2021). The region has a tropical seasonal climate of the Aw type according to the Köppen classification (Köppen, 1936), characterised by a rainy season concentrated between November and March and a well-defined dry season throughout the remainder of the year (Alvares et al., 2013). Savanna formations associated with the Cerrado predominate in Caetité, whereas the vegetation in Pindaí shows a stronger influence of the Caatinga, reflecting the ecotonal nature of the region (SEI, 2013).

The record from Caetité extends the known range of *C. botoque* by approximately 200 km southeast from its type locality in the municipality of Palmeiras (state of Bahia), 160 km west from the municipality of Contendas do Sincorá (Bahia), and 280 km north from the municipality of Grão Mogol (Minas Gerais). Similarly, the record from Pindaí extends the species' range by approximately 230 km southeast from its type locality, 180 km west from Contendas do Sincorá, and 245 km north from Grão Mogol. The distance between these two new populations is approximately 35 km. These new records are consistent with the species occurrence throughout the Espinhaço Range and adjacent areas (Marques et al., 2021), while expanding current knowledge of its distribution by demonstrating its presence in transitional zones between the Cerrado and Caatinga domains. The Espinhaço Mountain Range and its surrounding regions are recognised for their exceptional species richness and biological uniqueness and constitute important centres of endemism and biodiversity within the Neotropics (Mittermeier et al., 2005).

Occurrence records such as those presented here are essential for minimising the Wallacean shortfall (Lomolino, 2004), i.e., gaps in knowledge of species' geographic ranges. Furthermore, these findings emphasise the need for additional surveys, given that the distribution of the genus remains insufficiently understood (Marques et al., 2021). Reassessing inventories and studies with records previously attributed to *C. greeningi* that may in fact correspond to *C. botoque* should contribute to reviewing and updating the known distribution ranges of both *Corythomantis* species. Our study expands the known range of *C. botoque* and contributes to a better understanding of amphibian diversity in southwestern Bahia and the Brazilian semiarid region.

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