HYLA LACTEA DAUDIN, 1803 (AMPHIBIA): REQUEST FOR CONSERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.
Z.N.(S.) 2341

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In 1768 Laurenti (Synopsin Reptilium . . . p. 34) named Hyla lactea and gave a brief diagnosis (= description) based on two specimens, one in the 'museo Academico Upsaliensi' and one in the 'museo Petropolitano'. These type specimens are apparently no longer extant. In 1803 Daudin (Hist. Nat. des Rainettes . . . p. 29) considered Laurenti's Hyla lactea the same as his Hyla hypocondrialis (holotype lost, fide Duellman, 1977, Das Tierreich, vol. 95, p. 161) and for unknown reasons, proposed (p. 30) Hyla lactea Daudin as a new species from 'America'. The latter is based on Mus. nat. Hist. Paris no. 4870, an adult female.


3. Duméris & Bibron (1841, Erpétologie Générale . . . , vol. 8, p. 612) first proposed that Hyla aurantiaca Daudin and Hyla lactea Daudin were identical, a view consistently held by systematists interested in neotropical frogs. In 1838, Tschudi (Classif. Batrachier . . . p. 71) proposed a new genus, Sphaenorhynchus, based on Hyla lactea Daudin (Sphaenorhynchus Tschudi, 1838, is not a junior homonym of Sphenorynchus Lichtenstein, 1823, Aves, as alleged by Lutz & Lutz, 1938, Añais Acad. Bras. Sci., vol. 10, p. 178). Most workers in
the last century have recognised the genus although under a variety of names all of which employed Daudin’s *Hyla lactea* as the type species.

4. Simple application of the laws of homonymy and priority results in the following:

1. *Hyla lactea* Laurenti is the oldest name applied to the well-known and widespread tree frog *Phyllomedusa hypocondrialis* (Daudin);

2. *Hyla aurantiaca* Laurenti is a subjective synonym of the well-known and widespread tree frog *Hyla boans* (Linné, 1758);

3. neither *Hyla aurantiaca* Daudin nor *Hyla lactea* Daudin is nomenclaturally valid because each is a junior primary homonym. The only nomenclaturally valid name for this widespread Amazonian species is *Sphaenorhynchus eurhotos* Rivero, 1969, a replacement name for *Hyla aurantiaca* Daudin, a junior primary homonym; and

4. the generic names *Sphaenorhynchus* Tschudi, 1838, *Dryomelictes* Fitzinger, 1843, and *Sphoenohyla* Lutz & Lutz, 1938, are invalid because each is based on a junior primary homonym, *Hyla lactea* Daudin 1803.

5. However, Daudin’s (1803, p. 29) association of *Hyla lactea* Laurenti with his *Hyla hypocondrialis* is by no means secure. Duellman & Lynch (1981, *J. Herpetol.* vol. 15, pp. 237-239) showed that the imprecise description could equally apply to *Hyla fasciata* Günther, *H. geographica* Spix, and *Phyllomedusa tomopterna* (Cope), all widespread and well-known Amazonian–Guianan tree frogs. However, salient points in the description of *Hyla lactea* Laurenti are in conflict with the morphologies of each of these four species.

6. Although first listed as a senior name for *Phyllomedusa hypocondrialis* in 1803, *Hyla lactea* Laurenti has been ignored by herpetologists since Daudin, whereas *Hyla lactea* Daudin, 1803 has enjoyed recognition even as the type-species of a genus, in spite of occasional recognition that it is a junior primary homonym (Rivero, 1969, *Copeia* ... p. 701). We conclude that *Hyla lactea* Laurenti, 1768 is unidentifiable with any species of frog and is therefore a nomen dubium, but as an available name it continues to threaten nomenclatural stability for the genus of cis-Andean hyloid frogs called *Sphaenorhynchus*.

7. Accordingly, we now request the Commission:

1. to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *lactea* as used in the combination *Hyla lactea* by Laurenti, 1768, p. 34, for purposes of the Law of Priority and for those of the Law of Homonymy;

2. to place said specific name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;

3. to place the specific name *lactea* as used in the combination *Hyla lactea* by Daudin, 1803, p. 30, holotype Mus. nat. Hist.
nat. Paris no. 4870; type-locality ‘America’, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
(4) to place the generic name *Sphaenorhynchus* Tschudi, 1838, (gender: masculine, type species by monotypy, *Hyla lactea* Daudin, 1803, a primary homonym of *H. lactea* Laurenti, 1768) on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

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