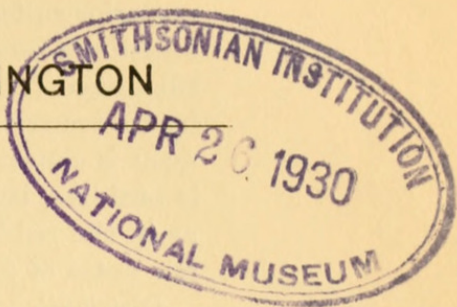


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW SPECIES OF *HYLA* FROM LOUISIANA.

BY PERCY VIOSCA, JR.

The species described herein had been called tentatively *Hyla phaeocrypta* Cope<sup>1</sup> pending its comparison by the writer with Cope's type of *phaeocrypta*, as well as with other North American *Hyla* types in the National Museum. I have had an opportunity recently to make such a study in the National Museum and found the Louisiana form to be a species distinct from any North American *Hyla* heretofore described. Further, I found the type of *Hyla versicolor phaeocrypta* Cope, U. S. N. M. No. 12074, to be a fairly typical specimen of *Hyla versicolor*, poorly preserved as to texture and color, but well within the range of individual variations normally exhibited by that species. The typical cruciform pattern of *versicolor*, though faint, is readily discernable, and the structural characters pointed out by Cope<sup>2</sup> place it unquestionably with that species.

***Hyla avivoca*, sp. nov.**

*Diagnosis.*—Superficially resembling *Hyla versicolor* but of smaller size, adult males averaging about 33 mm., 30 to 37 mm. in specimens examined, females larger. Color in life, ashy gray to greenish above, generally intermediate, with darker spots and blotches, mimicking damp lichens. The darker markings on the back are irregular and asymmetrical, sometimes tending to, but never forming a distinct and symmetrical cruciform pattern. The greater portion of the dark color usually lies behind the middle of the back, but otherwise the design is extremely variable, often being broken into disconnected spots or blotches. The concealed surfaces of the thighs and sides are greenish, the green on the

<sup>1</sup>Notes on the Status of *Hyla phaeocrypta* Cope, *Copeia*, Sept., 1923, No. 122, pp. 96-99.

<sup>2</sup>Cope, The Batrachia of North America, Bulletin 34, U. S. N. M.



posterior surface of the femur being irregularly vermiculated with darker, sometimes tending to a reticulated pattern. The species can also be distinguished from *versicolor* by its less squat and more slender form, and by its truncate muzzle and more protuberant eyes. The dorsal integument is almost smooth, the tubercles being fine and granular. The voice is bird-like, being a plaintive whistle repeated in quick succession, much as in the red-bellied woodpecker. This call is sometimes preceded by a few notes of a slower call much like the voice of *Hyla crucifer*.

*Distribution.*—It is known from many specimens taken in the Florida Parishes of Louisiana, where it is found in the tupelo swamps in the valleys of the rivers and smaller streams of that region, where it is usually found on young tupelo gum and cypress trees, and on buttonbush. While this region is the extreme southwestern corner of the east gulf coastal plain, this *Hyla* has never been taken or heard in the swamps of the Mississippi Valley in Louisiana or in the coastal plain west of that valley. Fifteen specimens, Field Museum No. 2201, from Olive Branch, Ill., although averaging smaller in size, seem to be the new species, indicating a probable wide distribution.

*Type.*—U. S. N. M. No. 75017, an adult male collected in the outskirts of Mandeville, Louisiana, on June 12, 1926, by Percy Viosca, Jr.

*Description of the type.*—Head very short, broader than long, with eyes relatively very large and protuberant. Muzzle truncate in outline. Canthus rostralis rounded. Tympanum slightly less than half the diameter of the eye. Tongue nearly orbicular, slightly notched behind. Vomerine fascicles projecting slightly behind the line connecting the interior nares. Body moderately slender, length of head in total, three and a half times. Limbs moderate, length of leg to heel reaching forward to the eye. Discs on fingers and toes broad. Web large, leaving the last two joints of the fourth toe free, extending however as a margin to the tip of the toe. Dorsal integument very finely granular, ventral integument with a distinct granular pavement.

*Dimensions of the type.*—Total length, 32 mm. Length of head, including tympana, 9 mm. Width of head at posterior edges of tympana, 12 mm. Length of anterior limb from axilla, 17 mm. Length of posterior limb from groin, 47 mm. Length of tibia, 14 mm. Length of tarsus, 9 mm. Length of rest of foot, 13 mm.

*Coloration of the type.*—Fixed and preserved in formaldehyde 1 part, alcohol 3 parts, and water 9 parts shortly after capture, the lighter green pigments disappeared within a few days, giving the specimen a brownish cast with dark bluish gray markings on the back and dark brown markings on the limbs. Above each eye is an irregular elongated blotch of dark extending obliquely backward and meeting its fellow between the eyes. A small asymmetrical, substellate blotch on the anterior portion of the back is connected to an asymmetrical inverted V-shaped patch on the posterior portion of the back, the inverted V being of greater area than the stellate area. An indistinct dusky patch extends from the eye through the nostril to the tip of the snout. The edge of the upper jaw is mottled with the ground color. A conspicuous light spot margined with dark lies







Viosca, Percy. 1928. "A new species of Hyla from Louisiana." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 41, 89–91.

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