

The first record of the rare microhylid *Altigius alios* Wild, 1995 in Brazil

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Altigius is a monotypic genus of Microhylidae. The sole species, *Altigius alios*, was described from Puerto Maldonado, Provincia de Tambopata, Departamento de Madre de Dios, Peru, based on one adult and five tadpoles, one of which was raised until metamorphosis to confirm species identification (Wild, 1995). An additional record is provided in Bolivia, although no precise coordinates are available (Icochea, Angulo and Reichle, 2004). Because of the limited number of records, the species is currently listed as Data Deficient by IUCN (Icochea, Angulo and Reichle, 2004).

During field work expeditions along the upper Madeira River, in the State of Rondônia, Brazil, two specimens of *Altigius alios* were collected in the locality of Cachoeira de Morrinhos, 50 km upstream of the city of Porto Velho, on the right riverbank (9.0222° S, 64.2480° W – Fig. 1). One specimen was captured on December 9th 2009, in a set of pitfall traps formed by 13 plastic buckets (70 L) settled in a “Y” arrangement connected by drift fences, placed about 2000 m from the margin of the Madeira River. The second individual (Fig. 2) was occasionally encountered at the same locality on November 9th 2010, by one of the authors (APL) on a track at approximately 50 m from the river margin. Both specimens were deposited in the herpetology collections at Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, in Manaus, Brazil (collection numbers INPA-H 27728–27729). Cachoeira de Morrinhos is located approximately 653 km northeast from the type-locality. None of the

currently known occurrence localities are included in protected areas, neither in Peru, Bolivia, nor Brazil (Icochea, Angulo and Reichle, 2004). The new locality is restricted to the right riverbank of the upper Madeira River, along which two hydroelectric power plants are currently being built. The species has only been found in sites located 2000 m or less from the river’s margin (species inventories in this area are being carried out by our team in 5 km long trails, perpendicular to riverbanks), and the area can potentially be vulnerable to flooding caused by the settlement of both reservoirs.

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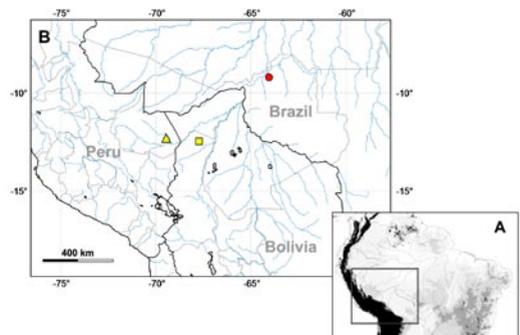


Figure 1. A. Relative position in South America of the map depicted in B. B. Geographic position of the first record of *Altigius alios* in Brazil (red circle), corresponding to two individuals collected on the right riverbank of the upper Madeira River, in Rondônia, southwestern Brazilian Amazonia. The location of the type locality of *A. alios* in Peru (yellow triangle), as well as an additional record in Bolivia provided by IUCN (yellow square), are also shown.



Figure 2. Live specimen of *Altigius alios* (INPA-H 27729) collected in November 2010, in Cachoeira do Morrinho, Municipality of Porto Velho, Rondônia, Brazil.

References

Icochea, J., Angulo, A., Reichle, S. (2004): *Altigius alios*. In: IUCN 2010. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.4. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 02 December 2010.

Wild, E.R. (1995): New genus and species of Amazonian microhylid frog with a phylogenetic analysis of New World genera. *Copeia* 1995: 837–849.