

Acoustics suggests hidden diversity in *Scinax garbei* (Anura: Hylidae)

André Gomes Lopes,^{1,2} Davi Lee Bang,^{1,2,3} Pedro Marinho,^{1,2} and Ariovaldo Antonio Giaretta¹

¹Laboratório de Taxonomia e Sistemática de Anuros Neotropicais, Instituto de Ciências Exatas e Naturais do Pontal, Universidade Federal de Uberlândia. 38304-402, Ituiutaba, MG, Brazil. E-mail: gomesandrebio@gmail.com.

²Departamento de Biologia/FFCLRP, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Biologia Comparada, Universidade de São Paulo. 14040-901, Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil.

³Laboratório de Zoologia de Vertebrados, Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras de Ribeirão Preto (FFCLRP), Universidade de São Paulo. 14040-901, Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil.

Abstract

Acoustics suggests hidden diversity in *Scinax garbei* (Anura: Hylidae). *Scinax garbei* is a treefrog species thought to be widely distributed across forest habitats of the Amazon Basin, occurring in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil. However, the morphological, acoustic and molecular characters of this species vary across its distribution. In view of this variation, the present study re-analyzes published advertisement calls and analyses new call data of nine populations of *S. garbei* from five countries, aiming to assess acoustic divergence. In addition, the territorial call of the species is described for the first time. Based on multivariate analyses of advertisement call data, there are three groups of populations with distinct calls, referred to herein as *S. garbei* Brazil, Northwestern, and Southwestern. *Scinax garbei* Northwestern is distinguished from *S. garbei* Southwestern by temporal call traits, whereas *S. garbei* Brazil differs from the other two groups based on both temporal and spectral traits. These results indicate that *S. garbei* may represent a complex of up to three species, thereby highlighting the need for a thorough taxonomic revision of this species.

Keywords: Amazonia, Amphibia, bioacoustics, *Scinax rostratus* Group, species complex, taxonomy.

Resumo

Acústica sugere diversidade oculta em *Scinax garbei* (Anura: Hylidae). *Scinax garbei* é uma espécie de anuro arborícola tida como amplamente distribuída pelos habitats florestais da Bacia Amazônica, ocorrendo na Venezuela, Colômbia, Equador, Peru, Bolívia e Brasil. No entanto, os caracteres morfológicos, acústicos e moleculares dessa espécie variam ao longo da sua distribuição. Diante dessa variação, o presente estudo reanalisa cantos de anúncio publicados e novos dados de cantos de nove populações de *S. garbei* de cinco países, para avaliar a divergência acústica. Além

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disso, o canto territorial da espécie é descrito pela primeira vez. Com base em análises multivariadas de dados de cantos de anúncio, existem três grupos de populações com cantos distintos, referidas aqui como *S. garbei* Brasil, Noroeste e Sudoeste. *Scinax garbei* Noroeste se distingue de *S. garbei* Sudoeste com base em traços temporais do canto, enquanto que *S. garbei* Brasil se distingue dos outros dois grupos com base em ambos traços temporais e espectrais do canto. Esses resultados indicam que *S. garbei* pode representar um complexo de até três espécies, destacando, portanto, a necessidade de uma minuciosa revisão taxonômica dessa espécie.

Palavras-chave: Amazônia, Amphibia, bioacústica, complexo de espécies, grupo de *Scinax rostratus*, taxonomia.

Introduction

The Neotropics harbor the greatest frog diversity in the world, especially in South America (Duellman 1999, Villalobos *et al.* 2013). However, this species richness currently is underestimated given the existence of many complexes of morphologically cryptic species, particularly in the Amazonian region (e.g., Fouquet *et al.* 2007, 2016, Funk *et al.* 2011, Ferrão *et al.* 2016, Caminer *et al.* 2017, Vacher *et al.* 2017, 2020, Rivadeneira *et al.* 2018, Chasiluisa *et al.* 2020, Mota *et al.* 2020). In this context, integrative approaches that incorporate distinct lines of evidence (e.g., acoustics, molecular, cytogenetics, etc.) have effectively solved taxonomic problems (e.g., Padial and De la Riva 2009, Caminer and Ron 2014, 2020, Baldo *et al.* 2019).

Frogs emit different types of acoustic signals that are categorized based on the social context in which the vocalizations are made (Toledo *et al.* 2015, Köhler *et al.* 2017). The most common type is the advertisement call; this is emitted by males to attract conspecific females and maintain between-males spacing in a chorus (Duellman and Trueb 1994, Wells 2007, Toledo *et al.* 2015, Köhler *et al.* 2017). As this call transmits species-specific information related to prezygotic isolation (Köhler *et al.* 2017), it is a useful diagnostic tool to reveal morphologically cryptic species (e.g., Nunes *et al.* 2012, Ron *et al.* 2018, Carvalho *et al.* 2019). Another common acoustic signal is the territorial call, which is

emitted in aggressive contexts that involve the defense of a territory (e.g., calling site) (Toledo *et al.* 2015, Köhler *et al.* 2017).

Scinax Wagler, 1830 currently comprises 72 species of treefrogs distributed throughout the Neotropics (Frost 2020). *Scinax garbei* (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1926) is a large-sized species of the *S. rostratus* Species Group (Faivovich 2002, Faivovich *et al.* 2005, Wiens *et al.* 2010), described from the Rio Juruá, Eirunepé, state of Amazonas (AM), Brazil. This species is thought to be widely distributed across forest habitats of the Amazon Basin, with occurrences reported from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia (La Marca 1992, Duellman and Wiens 1993, De la Riva *et al.* 1994, Barrio-Amorós *et al.* 2019), and from the Brazilian states of Acre (Bernarde *et al.* 2011, 2013), Amapá (Silva e Silva and Costa-Campos 2014), Amazonas (Miranda-Ribeiro 1926, Lima *et al.* 2006, Pantoja and Fraga 2012), Mato Grosso (São-Pedro *et al.* 2009, Noronha *et al.* 2015, present study), Pará (Ávila-Pires *et al.* 2010, Pinheiro *et al.* 2012), and Rondônia (Bernarde 2007, Piatti *et al.* 2012).

Some of the advertisement calls of *Scinax garbei* from populations in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia differ markedly from one another (Duellman 1970, 1972, 1978, 2005, Duellman and Pyles 1983, Duellman and Wiens 1993, De la Riva *et al.* 1994). Although Zimmerman (1983) reported the dominant frequency and pulse rate for a specimen from Manaus (AM), the advertisement call of *S. garbei* never has

been formally described from Brazil. Moreover, the species varies considerably in body size, thigh color pattern, and degree of development of the proboscis and of the heel tubercle (Duellman 1970, 1972, Heyer 1977, Duellman and Wiens 1993). In addition, recent molecular studies have shown that the populations from Ecuador and southeastern Peru do not form a monophyletic group (Jansen *et al.* 2011; Ron *et al.* 2018). These inconsistencies suggest that *S. garbei* represents a species complex, thereby illustrating the need of a better assessment of the taxonomic status of the different populations currently under this name.

Call divergences between some populations of *Scinax garbei* may elucidate their respective identities. However, many of the apparent discrepancies may reflect the different technologies and methodologies used in the analyses of calls; thus, reliable comparisons cannot be made. Herein, we re-analyze published data and also analyze original recordings of *S. garbei* from a total of nine populations from five countries. Acoustic variation among some populations is discussed, as well as the taxonomic implications of the observed variation. Lastly, we provide the first description of the territorial call of the species.

Materials and Methods

Data Collection

Vocalizations were recorded on two occasions: (1) on 24 January 2011 on the Campus of the Universidade Federal do Amazonas, Manaus, state of Amazonas (AM), northern Brazil (03°06'0.86" S, 59°58'35.59" W, 79 m a.s.l., datum WGS84; ca. 1,170 km east-northeast of the type locality of *Scinax garbei*); and (2) on 11 January 2019 in the municipality of Alta Floresta, state of Mato Grosso (MT), Brazil (09°38'34.22" S, 56°16'17.07" W, 273 m a.s.l., datum WGS84; ca. 1,540 km east-southeast of the type locality).

Specimens collected in Alta Floresta are housed in the Collection of Frogs of the Museu de Biodiversidade do Cerrado, Universidade Federal de Uberlândia (AAG-UFU 6498–6502, with specimens 6498 and 6499 being call vouchers). Recordings (sampling rates of 44.1 or 48.0 kHz; 16 bits resolution) are also deposited in the same collection. See Appendix I for further details about recordings.

Additional Recordings

Fourteen recordings from the following localities were provided by the Fonoteca Zoológica (FonoZoo) from the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales de Madri: Puerto Almacén (Bolivia), Abel Iturralde Province (Bolivia), Leticia (Colombia), Pucaurquillo (Peru), Pilcopata (Peru), and Santa Cecilia (Ecuador). Vocalizations of *Scinax garbei* from some of these localities had been analyzed previously—e.g., Pilcopata (Duellman 1972, Duellman and Wiens 1993), Santa Cecilia (Duellman 1970, 1972, 1978, Duellman and Wiens 1993), and Puerto Almacén (De la Riva *et al.* 1994). One voucher specimen from Pilcopata and two from Santa Cecilia are housed in the KU Herpetology Collection of the Biodiversity Institute at the University of Kansas (respectively KU 139242, 125603, 125604). These recordings were made with analogue recorders and digitized at a sampling rate of at least 44.1 kHz and 16 bits resolution. A recording from Tambopata-Candamo National Park (Peru) published on a CD by Cocroft *et al.* (2001) also was analyzed. Appendix I provides recording details.

Specimen Identification

Voucher specimens from Santa Cecilia and Pilcopata were identified as *Scinax garbei* by Duellman (1970, 1972) and Duellman and Wiens (1993). We confirmed the identity of other recordings attributed to *S. garbei* based on the similarity of the advertisement call to those of either of these two populations. Based on the

resemblance of the advertisement calls, we determined that the recording from Manaus was of the same species as that from Alta Floresta. Characters of the frogs from Alta Floresta match the diagnosis provided for *S. garbei* by Duellman and Wiens (1993), as follow: (1) snout–vent length (SVL) 41.4–44.0 mm [mean: 42.9; standard deviation (SD): 1.1]; (2) snout acuminate in dorsal and lateral profiles, with a proboscis that present different degrees of development; (3) conical ulnar and tarsal tubercles present (more or less distinct); (4) enlarged heel tubercle present; (5) tubercles present on lower jaw; (6) skin on dorsum smooth to tuberculate, with tubercles often conical; (7) dorsum brown (brown or dull green in life), with dark triangular mark with apex directed posteriorly and corners on eyelids; (8) large dark marks posterodorsal to axillae; (9) dashes or transverse marks in sacral region; (10) transverse bars on dorsal surface of limbs; (11) flanks cream with brown flecks; (12) broad cream (orange in life) and dark vertical bars on posterior surfaces of thighs; and (13) iris pale creamy bronze, with a median horizontal reddish-brown streak.

Acoustic Analyses

A high-pass filter up to 500 Hz and a low-pass filter up to 5000 Hz were applied to recordings to reduce background noise. After filtering, recordings with low amplitude levels were normalized (peak -1.0 dB) with Audacity v. 2.2.2 software (Audacity Team 2020). Advertisement calls ($N = 237$) from nine populations and territorial calls ($N = 97$) from seven populations were analyzed in Raven Pro v. 1.5 software (Center for Conservation Bioacoustics 2014) with the following settings: window size = 256 samples; 3 dB filter bandwidth = 248, 270 or 539 Hz; window type = Hann; overlap = 89.8% (locked); hop size = 0.271, 0.542 or 0.590 ms; DFT size = 1024 samples; grid spacing = 43.1, 46.9 or 93.8 Hz (depending on the sampling rate). Temporal traits were obtained from

oscillograms. Dominant, maximum, and minimum frequency values were obtained through “Peak Frequency,” “Frequency 95%,” and “Frequency 5%” functions of Raven, respectively. We used the acoustic terminology and definitions of Bang and Giaretta (2016) with the following exceptions. The call rate is that of Carvalho *et al.* (2017). Pulse rate was calculated from a section of 100 ms in the middle of the call, as follows: (number of pulses - 1) / time between the onset of first and last pulses. The call-centered approach of Köhler *et al.* (2017) was adopted. Mean and standard deviation (SD) values were obtained from mean values of each individual, whereas ranges (i.e., minimum–maximum) include all values from the raw dataset. Sound figures were generated with the seewave package v. 1.7.6 (Sueur *et al.* 2008) in the R platform v. 3.5.2 (R Core Team 2018) with the following settings: window = Hanning, overlap = 85%, and FFT = 256.

Classification of Call Types

Two types of call were recognized. Advertisement calls are the most common, emitted repeatedly in a stereotyped way, and sometimes antiphonally by neighboring males (Köhler *et al.* 2017). Territorial calls (*sensu* Toledo *et al.* 2015) are those often emitted by males in close-range interactions in Alta Floresta. Advertisement and territorial calls from other recordings were categorized as such based on the context of the recording and by comparison with recordings from Alta Floresta.

Statistical Analyses

Multivariate analysis included all traits measured for call descriptions and were based on mean values of each individual. Among-population/groups acoustic discrimination was sought through the randomForest (RF) (randomForest v. 4.6-14 package, Liaw and Wiener 2002) and DAPC (Discriminant Analysis on Principal Components) (adeget v. 2.1.1 package; Jombart

2008, Jombart *et al.* 2010) functions in R platform. The RF algorithm constructs several (by default 500) classification trees using bootstrap samples from the original dataset, with each split using the best predictors among those randomly chosen at each node; then it generates classifiers and aggregates results by voting to classes (Breiman 2001, Liaw and Wiener 2002). Unsupervised (i.e., no pre-established groups) RF analyses were performed a priori to detect putative clustering among samples; subsequent multivariate analyses were carried over the recognized clusters. RF analyses also result in between-objects distance estimates, which are subject to a Multidimensional Scaling Analysis (MDS) and displayed graphically through the `proximityPlot` function (`rfPermute` package; Archer 2014). The DAPC runs on the Principal Component Scores (Jombart 2008, Jombart *et al.* 2010). A Discriminant Analysis (DA) was applied on a few axes (retaining ca. 95% of the variance) of the Principal Component Analysis (PCA), improving the imbalance between objects and traits (Jombart *et al.* 2010). The DAPC analysis was carried out to test for reciprocal congruence between it and RF.

Traits indicated as important for among-groups discrimination by RF and DAPC, were assessed for statistical significance with the “Exact Wilcoxon Mann Whitney Rank Sum Test”, by applying the function `wilcox_test` (`coin` package; Hothorn *et al.* 2008) in R. As this test is performed between pairs, the significance levels (p) were adjusted by the Holm method applying the `p.adjust` function. Statistical significance was assumed when p -value < 0.05.

Results

Unsupervised RF analysis resulted in three clusters, hereinafter designated by their geographic location (Figure 1): (1) *Scinax garbei* Brazil.—Alta Floresta ($N = 4$ males; 81 calls) and Manaus ($N = 1$; 12); (2) *Scinax garbei* Southwestern.—Abel Iturralde ($N = 2$; 7), Puerto Almacén ($N = 1$; 20), Tambopata-Candamo

National Park ($N = 1$; 16), and Pilcopata ($N = 3$; 7); and (3) *Scinax garbei* Northwestern.—Pucaurquillo ($N = 1$; 6), Leticia ($N = 1$; 11), and Santa Cecilia ($N = 6$; 77).

Descriptions of Vocalizations

Advertisement calls.—Calls of all groups (Figures 2, 3) consist of a single multi-pulsed note composed of two emphasized frequency bands [hereinafter called lower (LFB) and higher (HFB) bands]. Calls of *Scinax garbei* Brazil and Southwestern have similar envelopes, with a fast-ascending amplitude modulation at the onset and quickly reaching a plateau that is sustained for the duration. Calls of *S. garbei* Northwestern have an irregular, elliptical envelope, with variation in amplitude modulation in the middle and final portions of the call; calls of frogs from Leticia lack this downward modulation. Calls of *S. garbei* Brazil and Southwestern have variable durations, whereas call duration of *S. garbei* Northwestern is more regular. First and final pulses have more variable durations and intervals; pulses of *S. garbei* Northwestern occasionally have deeper internal amplitude modulations (Figure 3). In both *S. garbei* Brazil and Southwestern, the HFB has a fast-upward modulation at the call onset and quickly reaches a stable frequency that is sustained for the duration of the call. In contrast, the HFB of *S. garbei* Northwestern has a long, gradual upward modulation from the call onset to some point at the middle or final portion, at which it reaches a stable frequency that is sustained for the call duration. Unlike HFB, the LFB of all groups maintains a stable frequency throughout the call. In all groups, the dominant frequency can alternate between the LFB and HFB along call emissions; it alternated between bands in three individuals of *S. garbei* Brazil, in two of *S. garbei* Southwestern, and in six of *S. garbei* Northwestern. Conversely, dominant frequency corresponds only to HFB in two *S. garbei* Brazil, in two *S. garbei* Southwestern, and in one *S. garbei* Northwestern. Also, in one *S. garbei*

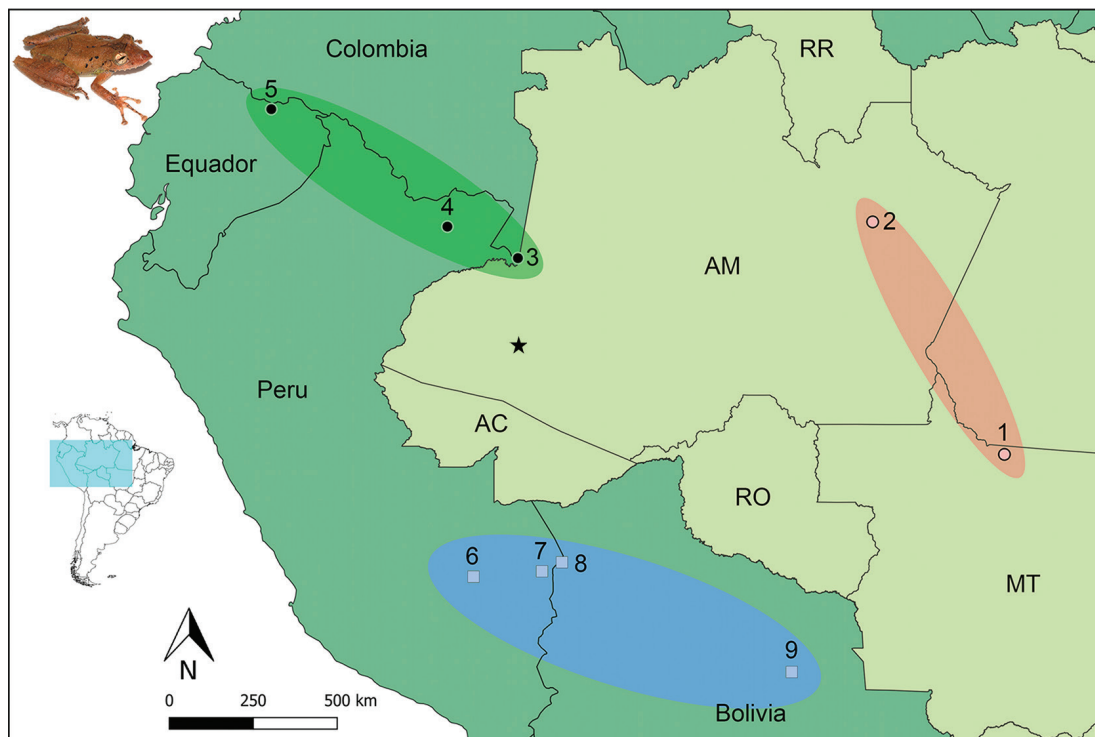


Figure 1. Distribution map of the three groups of *Scinax garbei* recognized here (ellipses: pink = *S. garbei* Brazil; green = *S. garbei* Northwestern; blue = *S. garbei* Southwestern). Star = type locality (Juruá River, Eirunepé); 1 = Alta Floresta; 2 = Manaus; 3 = Leticia; 4 = Pucaurquillo; 5 = Santa Cecilia; 6 = Pilcopata; 7 = Tambopata; 8 = Abel Iturralde; 9 = Puerto Almacén. Abbreviations for Brazilian states: AC = Acre, AM = Amazonas, MT = Mato Grosso, RO = Rondônia, RR = Roraima.

Northwestern, the dominant frequency corresponded only to LFB. Descriptive statistics of call traits of each group are in Table 1 and of each population in Appendix II.

Territorial calls.—These calls were emitted by individuals from all populations, except for those from Puerto Almacén and Tambopata. Calls of all groups (Figure 4) consist of a single multi-pulsed note with irregular amplitude modulations; usually there is an ascending amplitude modulation in the first part of the call and a downward modulation in the final portion. Calls of *S. garbei* Northwestern and Southwestern vary in

duration, whereas call duration of *S. garbei* Brazil is more regular. Pulses in the middle portion of the call usually are better defined. Territorial calls often are emitted shortly after advertisement calls. However, these calls also are emitted without having been preceded by an advertisement call, and not all advertisement calls are followed by territorial ones (52% of advertisement calls of *S. garbei* Brazil, 26% of *S. garbei* Southwestern, and 13% of *S. garbei* Northwestern were followed by territorial calls.) Territorial calls also have two main frequency bands in which dominant frequency alternates along call emissions. Descriptive statistics are in Table 2.

Table 1. Advertisement call traits of the three groups of *Scinax garbei* recognized here. *N* = number of individuals/ number of calls analyzed. Values are given as mean \pm SD (minimum–maximum).

Call characteristics	Brazil (<i>N</i> = 5/93)	Northwestern (<i>N</i> = 8/94)	Southwestern (<i>N</i> = 7/50)
Duration (s)	1.9 \pm 0.5 (0.3–3.0)	0.5 \pm 0.1 (0.3–0.7)	0.9 \pm 0.2 (0.3–1.9)
Rate (calls/min)	15.5 \pm 10.9 (2.1–27.1)	46.4 \pm 19.5 (9.9–69.1)	22.1 \pm 9.9 (9.4–38.7)
Interval (s)	4.0 \pm 6.4 (0.4–69.7)	1.5 \pm 2.0 (0.2–30.0)	2.3 \pm 2.0 (0.5–7.8)
1 st pulse duration (ms)	5.3 \pm 1.0 (2.0–11.0)	6.3 \pm 1.7 (3.0–17.0)	7.4 \pm 1.3 (3.0–12.0)
Mid-portion pulses duration (ms)	7.8 \pm 0.8 (5.0–11.0)	7.4 \pm 1.6 (4.0–12.0)	7.5 \pm 1.1 (4.0–11.0)
Final pulse duration (ms)	10.1 \pm 0.7 (6.0–15.0)	9.6 \pm 1.8 (5.0–20.0)	10.6 \pm 2.7 (5.0–14.0)
1 st pulse interval (ms)	4.1 \pm 1.3 (1.0–19.0)	5.7 \pm 1.2 (2.0–17.0)	7.8 \pm 2.2 (3.0–22.0)
Mid-portion pulse interval (ms)	6.4 \pm 0.5 (5.0–9.0)	4.3 \pm 0.9 (1.0–8.0)	8.1 \pm 0.9 (5.0–11.0)
Final pulse interval (ms)	7.0 \pm 0.6 (4.0–10.0)	4.8 \pm 1.2 (2.0–9.0)	8.6 \pm 1.3 (5.0–14.0)
Pulse rate (pulses/s)	72.7 \pm 2.1 (69.0–76.9)	88.5 \pm 11.7 (74.5–108.7)	66.0 \pm 5.4 (54.9–72.2)
Minimum frequency (Hz)	843 \pm 59 (750–938)	1304 \pm 48 (1219–1406)	1423 \pm 131 (1292–1723)
Maximum frequency (Hz)	3289 \pm 228 (2813–3703)	3700 \pm 245 (3230–4313)	4165 \pm 393 (3618–4996)
Dominant frequency of LFB (Hz)	993 \pm 22 (938–1219)	1590 \pm 85 (1464–1781)	1644 \pm 99 (1421–1781)
Dominant frequency of HFB (Hz)	2903 \pm 125 (2627–3188)	3355 \pm 284 (2756–4031)	3475 \pm 165 (3058–3876)

Statistical Comparisons

Supervised analysis of RF (Figure 5) of the main groups resulted in 0% error rate—i.e., recordings from all populations were recovered in their own groups. *Scinax garbei* Northwestern is completely discriminated from *S. garbei* Brazil along both axes; it is distinguished from *S. garbei* Southwestern along the first axis and slightly separate along the second axis. *Scinax garbei* Brazil and *S. garbei* Southwestern are completely separated along the second axis and overlap along the first axis. Likewise, DAPC analysis resulted in all individuals reassigned to their original clusters. In this discriminant analysis, *S. garbei* Northwestern and Brazil overlap along the second axis but are completely separated along the first axis; *S. garbei* Southwestern is separated from the other groups along both axes.

Six acoustic traits indicated by the multivariate analyses as important for discrimination have statistically significant differences (Figure 6; Table 3). *Scinax garbei* Brazil is diagnosed from *S. garbei* Southwestern by its longer call and lower dominant frequencies to both LFB and HFB. *Scinax garbei* Brazil is diagnosed from *S. garbei* Northwestern by its longer call, longer pulse intervals in the middle and final parts of the call, and by its lower pulse rate and dominant frequency of LFB. *Scinax garbei* Southwestern is diagnosed from *S. garbei* Northwestern by its longer pulse intervals in the middle and final parts of the call, and lower pulse rate.

Discussion

Published descriptions of the advertisement call of *Scinax garbei* are somewhat discordant.

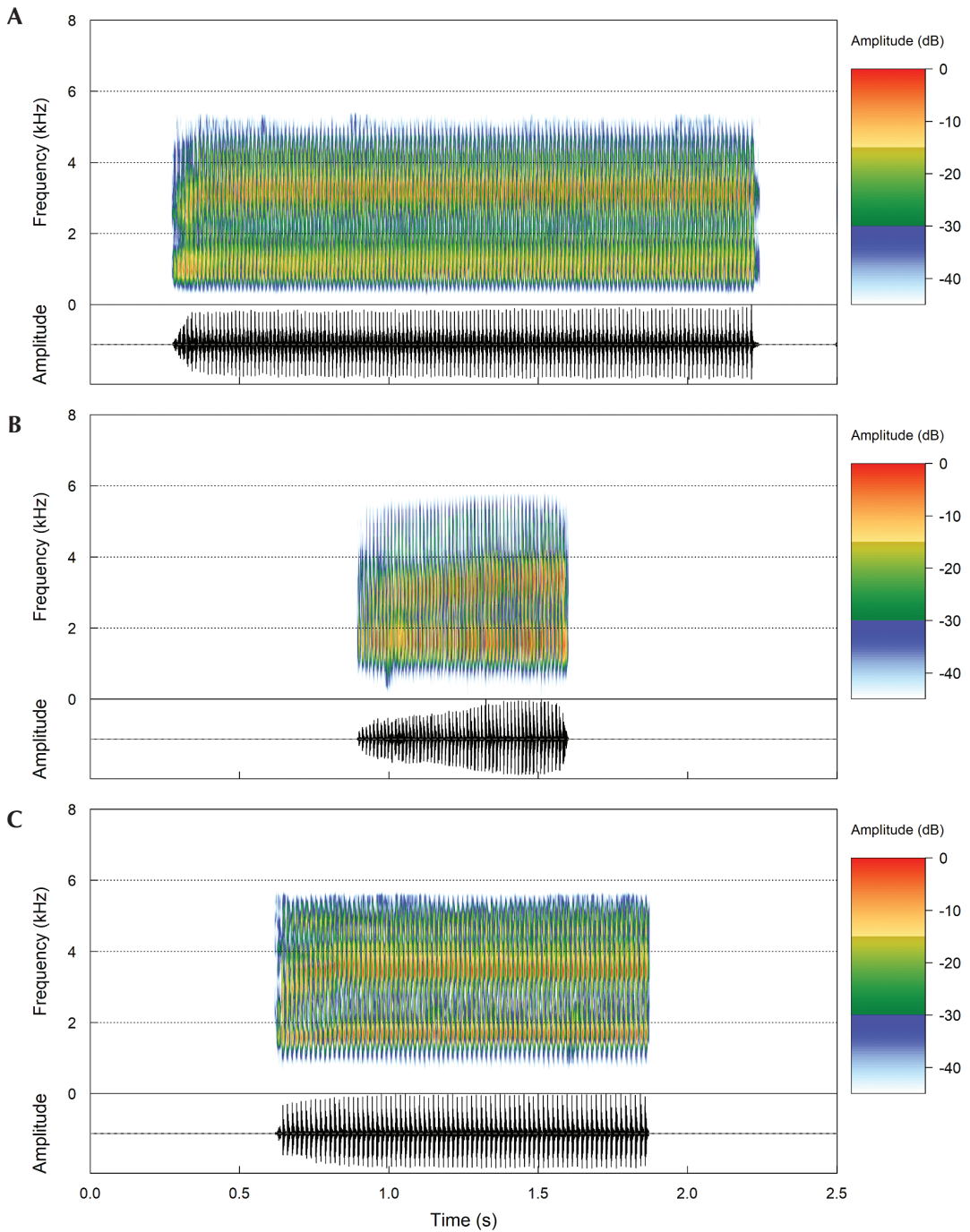


Figure 2. Audiospectrograms and respective oscillograms of the advertisement calls of *Scinax garbei* Brazil (A), Northwestern (B) and Southwestern (C). Sound files: *Scinax garbei* Alta Floresta MT 1bPM_AAGm671 (A); 7807 (FonoZoo) (B); Track 40 (CD Frogs of Tambopata) (C). Further recordings details are in Appendix I.

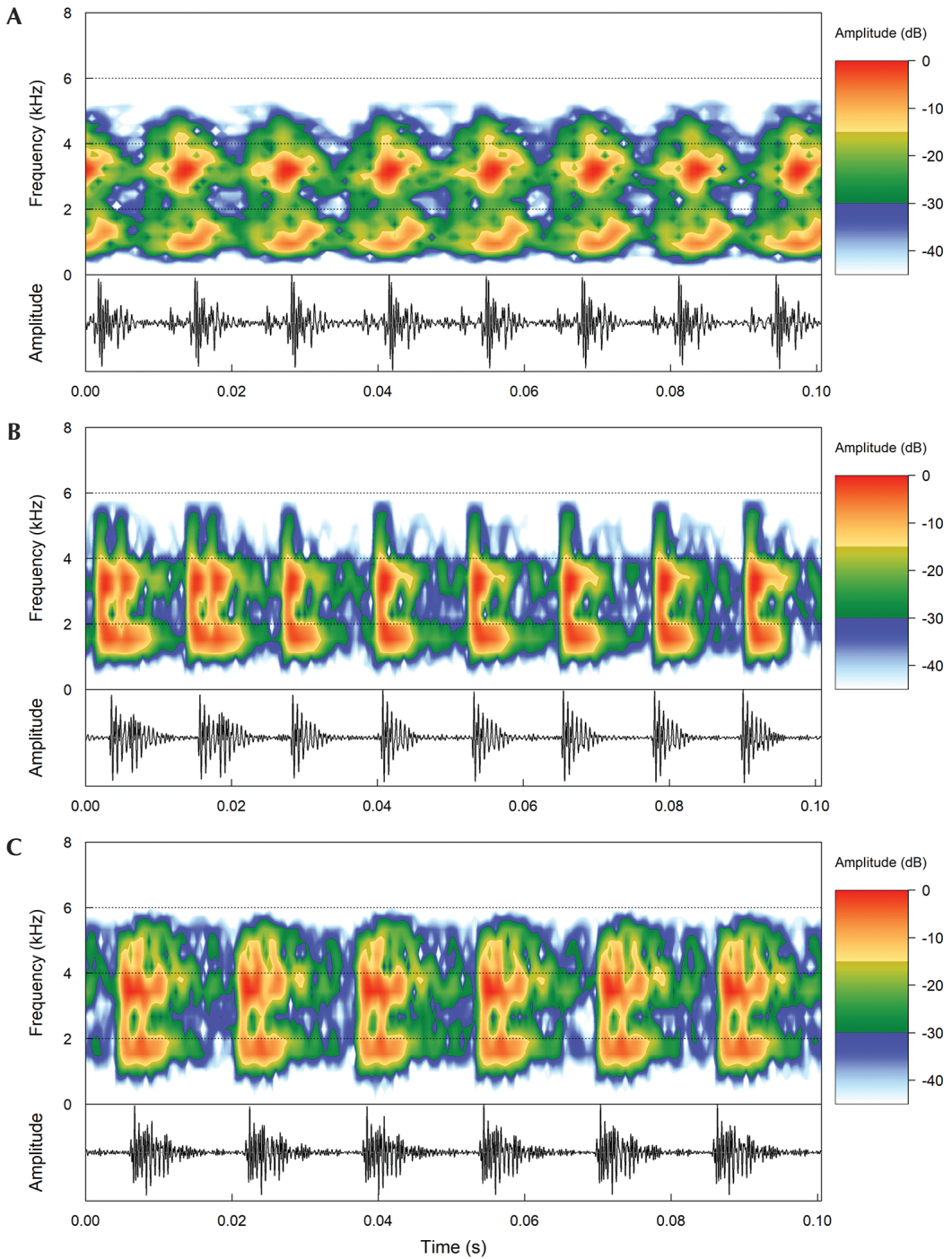


Figure 3. Audiospectrograms and respective oscillograms of 100-ms sections extracted from the midpoint of each call depicted in Figure 2, detailing pulses shape: *Scinax garbei* Brazil (A), Northwestern (B) and Southwestern (C).

Table 2. Territorial call traits of the three groups of *Scinax garbei* recognized here. *N* = number of individuals/number of calls analyzed. Values are given as mean ± SD (minimum–maximum).

Call characteristics	Brazil (<i>N</i> = 5/56)	Northwestern (<i>N</i> = 6/17)	Southwestern (<i>N</i> = 4/14)
Duration (s)	0.045 ± 0.008 (0.033–0.059)	0.038 ± 0.026 (0.013–0.102)	0.057 ± 0.020 (0.020–0.105)
Interval after advertisement call (s)	0.031 ± 0.004 (0.022–0.048)	0.031 ± 0.010 (0.003–0.076)	0.017 ± 0.010 (0.003–0.032)
Minimum frequency (Hz)	903 ± 154 (750–1359)	1326 ± 76 (1219–1500)	1484 ± 118 (1335–1688)
Maximum frequency (Hz)	3385 ± 299 (3000–4091)	3879 ± 350 (3469–4500)	3967 ± 532 (3445–5063)
Dominant frequency of LFB (Hz)	1050 ± 190 (818–1723)	1631 ± 79 (1378–1938)	1693 ± 195 (1464–2063)
Dominant frequency of HFB (Hz)	2846 ± 109 (2578–3058)	3529 ± 351 (3058–4125)	3345 ± 147 (2842–3656)

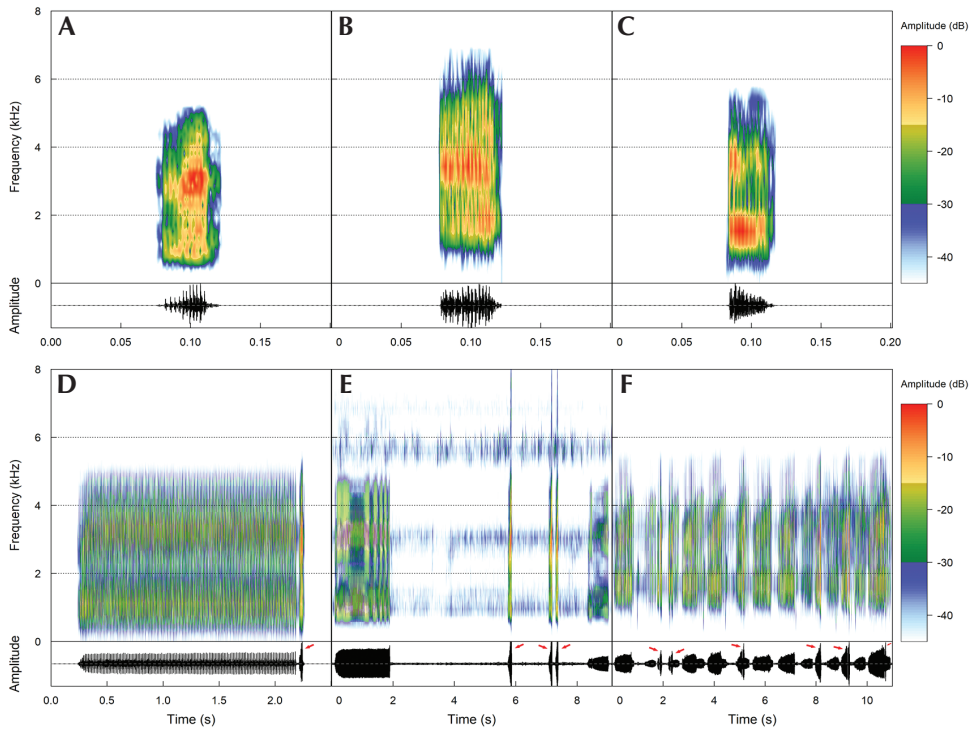


Figure 4. Audiospectrograms and respective oscillograms of the territorial call of *Scinax garbei* Brazil (A), Southwestern (B) and Northwestern (C). Territorial call preceded by an advertisement call (D), and three territorial calls emitted alone (E). Aggressive interaction between two individuals, with the foreground male emitting territorial calls in response to the background one (F). Red arrows indicate territorial calls. Sound files: *Scinax garbei*AltaFlorestaMT1bPM_AAGm671 (A, D, E); 7679 (FonoZoo) (B); 7806 (FonoZoo) (C); 7808 (FonoZoo) (F). Further recordings details are in Appendix I.

Table 3. Pairwise comparisons between the three groups of *Scinax garbei* recognized here, regarding statistical significance (Wilcoxon Mann Whitney Rank Sum Test) of call traits indicated as having higher loadings (RF and DAPC) for discrimination among groups. Values are significant when $p < 0.05$.

Trait / Pair comparison	Brazil vs. Southwestern	Brazil vs. Northwestern	Southwestern vs. Northwestern
Call duration	Z = 2.8723 $p < 0.007$	Z = 2.9646 $p < 0.007$	Z = -3.1202 $p < 0.006$
Mid-portion pulse interval	Z = -2.6029 $p < 0.01$	Z = 2.9277 $p < 0.007$	Z = -3.2404 $p < 0.004$
Pulse rate	Z = 2.3548 $p < 0.02$	Z = -2.9277 $p < 0.007$	Z = 3.2404 $p < 0.004$
Final portion pulse interval	Z = -2.1962 $p < 0.03$	Z = 2.9358 $p < 0.007$	Z = -3.2433 $p < 0.004$
Dominant frequency of the LFB	Z = -2.842 $p < 0.01$	Z = -2.9358 $p < 0.01$	Z = -1.1593 $p > 0.2$
Dominant frequency of the HFB	Z = -2.842 $p < 0.02$	Z = -2.7813 $p < 0.02$	Z = -1.273 $p > 0.2$

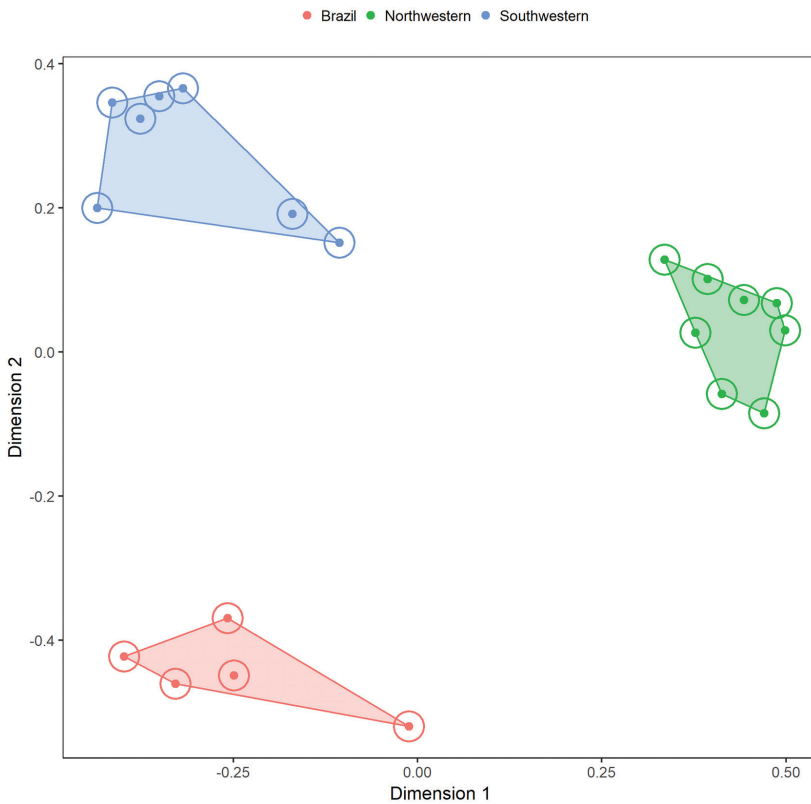


Figure 5. Plots of the two first axes of a Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) on the Random Forest result for advertisement call data of the three groups of *Scinax garbei* recognized here.

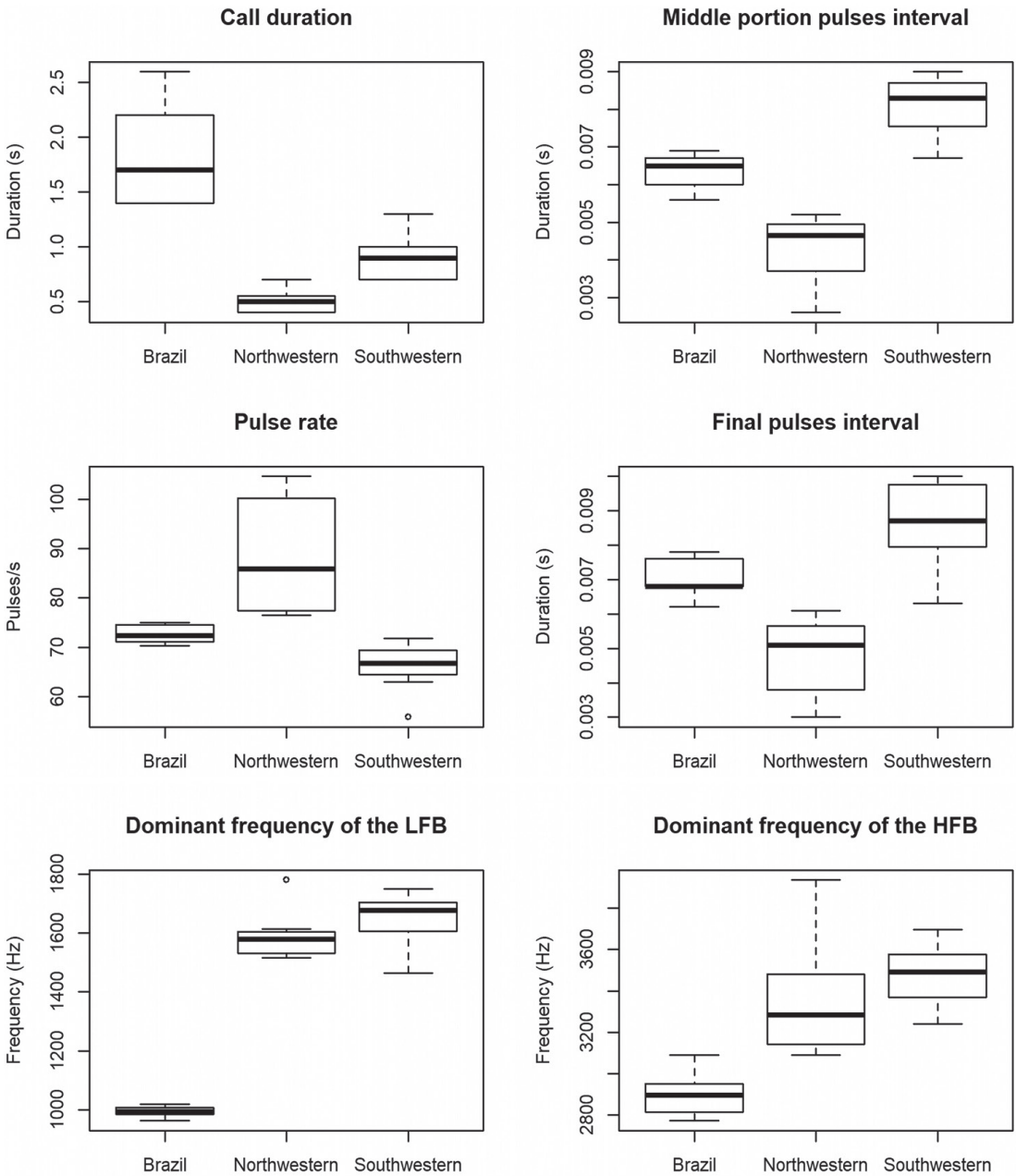


Figure 6. Boxplots of the most important acoustic traits to discrimination among the three groups of *Scinax garbei* recognized here. See Table 3 for statistical significance values of each trait.

Duellman (1970) first described the advertisement call of the species (as *Hyla garbei*) from Santa Cecilia (Ecuador); these call values appeared again in Duellman (1972, 1978) and Duellman and Wiens (1993). However, in Duellman and Pyles' (1983) description of the call from Santa Cecilia, there are substantial differences in the values for call rate, pulse rate, and fundamental and dominant frequencies relative to previous studies. Duellman (1972) also reported on the call of a population from Pilcopata (Peru) (as *Hyla epacrorrhina*), and Duellman and Wiens (1993) reported on the call of a population from Tambopata (Peru). The calls of these Peruvian populations resemble one another (except for differences in pulse rate), and differ in call duration, pulse rate, and dominant frequency from the calls of the Ecuadorian populations. In addition, Zimmerman (1983) reported values for pulse rate and dominant frequency for a frog from Manaus (Brazil) that differ from previous works. De la Riva *et al.* (1994) reported on the advertisement call from Puerto Almacén (Bolivia), and pointed out that their data are substantially different from those of Ecuadorian populations regarding call duration, call rate, pulse rate and dominant frequency. The call data for frogs from Puerto Almacén do not match those for frogs from Brazil, but are quite similar to those reported for Peruvian populations (except for some differences in pulse rate). Duellman (2005) provided some call values for a frog population at the Reserva Cusco Amazónico (Peru); these are mostly consistent with data reported for the Bolivian and other Peruvian populations.

The call values we obtained in our re-analyses of recordings from Pilcopata, Puerto Almacén, and Santa Cecilia, for the most part match the values provided by previous studies, except for the strikingly higher pulse rate (195–240 pulses/s *vs.* 76–103 pulses/s in our study) and the strikingly lower fundamental frequency (391–482 Hz *vs.* 1500–1781 Hz of LFB in our study) respectively found by Duellman (1970) and Duellman and Pyles (1983), for the

population from Santa Cecilia. Our call values for the population from Manaus differ from those reported by Zimmerman (1983) in dominant frequency (2350 Hz *vs.* 1007 Hz of LFB and 2894 Hz of HFB in our study) and pulse rate (100 pulses/s *vs.* 75 pulses/s in our study). Also, our call values for the population from Tambopata differ from those reported by Duellman and Wiens (1993) in pulse rate (110 pulses/s *vs.* 63 pulses/s in our study). Most of these discrepancies may reflect the technology employed in call recordings and analyses.

Our multivariate analyses separate the populations of *S. garbei* into three main groups with distinct advertisement calls. *Scinax garbei* Southwestern and *S. garbei* Northwestern are diagnosed from each other only by temporal call traits, whereas *S. garbei* Brazil is diagnosed from the other two groups by both temporal and spectral call traits. Besides quantitative call differences, the call of *S. garbei* Northwestern has temporal and spectral structures quite distinct from those of the other groups (Figure 2). Although there are statistically significant differences in both minimum and maximum frequencies of *S. garbei* Brazil in relation to the other groups, we do not consider these traits as diagnostic because the calls may have been affected by the normalization (Materials and Methods).


Although Duellman (1972) reported that the advertisement call of *Scinax garbei* from Pilcopata was followed by one or two secondary notes, we concluded that these notes are territorial calls. The population from Alta Floresta had the highest emission rate of territorial calls; this can be explained by the high density of males in close-range interactions (Allan 1973, Toledo *et al.* 2015). Despite being alone, the individual from Manaus also emitted territorial calls, although at a lower rate (as occurs in other species of *Scinax*; pers. obs. of the authors). Territorial calls of the different groups share a somewhat similar envelope shape, but vary in duration, amplitude modulation levels, and values of spectral traits.

Although variation in advertisement calls might occur intra-specifically (e.g., Castellano *et al.* 2002, Heyer and Reid 2003, Smith *et al.* 2003, Velásquez *et al.* 2013, Forti *et al.* 2017, Zaracho *et al.* 2018), the call divergences we report exceed those usually reported for intraspecific variation. These call differences, along with previous studies reporting on morphological (e.g., Duellman 1972, Heyer 1977, Duellman and Wiens 1993) and molecular (Jansen *et al.* 2011, Ron *et al.* 2018) divergences in this species, provide strong evidence that *S. garbei* may represent a complex of up to three species. Thus, this may be another case of what was assumed to be a widely distributed species representing a species complex, as has been recently demonstrated for other Amazonian frog and salamander species (e.g., Jungfer *et al.* 2010, Simões *et al.* 2010, Caminer and Ron 2014, Gehara *et al.* 2014, Caminer *et al.* 2017, Rivadeneira *et al.* 2018, Jaramillo *et al.* 2020).

If more than one species exists within *Scinax garbei*, there are two names available for two of the populations sampled herein. One is *Hyla lutzi*, described by Melin (1941) based on two specimens from Manaus and “Rio Uaupés” (São Gabriel da Cachoeira), state of Amazonas, Brazil. After examining the holotype of *S. garbei* and syntypes of *H. lutzi*, together with a series of specimens from the upper Amazon Basin, Duellman (1970) concluded that despite a minor difference in size between Brazilian and Ecuadorian specimens all of them corresponded to a single taxon, and therefore synonymized *H. lutzi* with *S. garbei*. The other synonym of *S. garbei* is *S. epacrorhina*, described by Duellman (1972) from Pilcopata, Cusco Department, Peru. After examining the type series of *S. epacrorhina* and several specimens from Ecuador and Peru, Duellman and Wiens (1993) concluded that morphological and call differences between these species reflected geographic variation, and therefore synonymized it with *S. garbei*. Given our new data and the historical background, a taxonomic revision including specimens and DNA sequences from localities within the

regions sampled here, in addition to data from topotypes, is necessary to elucidate the taxonomic status of the different populations currently assigned to *S. garbei*.

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Appendix I. Sound files (.wav) analyzed in the present study and associated metadata. Equipment (recorder / microphone): m671 (Marantz 671 / Sennheiser K6/ME67); mt (Microtrack II / Sennheiser K6/ME67); WM-D6C (Sony WM-D6C / Sennheiser ME80); M1120 (Sanyo M1120 / Sennheiser ME80); U4000 (Uher 4000 / Uher).

Recording label/code	Locality	Time (h)	Date	Air temperature (°C)	Equipment
Scinax_garbeiAltaFlorestaMT2cDLB_AA Gm671	Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil	19:13	11 Jan 2019	24.5	m671
Scinax_garbeiAltaFlorestaMT3aDLB_AA Gm671	Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil	19:20	11 Jan 2019	24.5	m671
Scinax_garbeiAltaFlorestaMT3bDLB_AA Gm671	Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil	19:21	11 Jan 2019	24.5	m671
Scinax_garbeiAltaFlorestaMT1aPM_AA Gm671	Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil	19:37	11 Jan 2019	24.5	m671
Scinax_garbeiAltaFlorestaMT1bPM_AA Gm671	Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil	19:44	11 Jan 2019	24.5	m671
Scinax_garbeiAltaFlorestaMT2aPM_AA Gm671	Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil	19:44	11 Jan 2019	24.5	m671
Scinax_garbeiAltaFlorestaMT2cPM_AA Gm671	Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil	19:46	11 Jan 2019	24.5	m671
Scinax_garbeiManausAM2aTRCmt	Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil	18:07	24 Jan 2011	25	mt
Scinax_garbeiManausAM2bTRCmt	Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil	18:11	24 Jan 2011	25	mt
Scinax_garbeiManausAM2cTRCmt	Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil	18:14	24 Jan 2011	25	mt

Appendix I. *Continued.*

Recording label/code	Locality	Time (h)	Date	Air temperature (°C)	Equipment
10516 (FonoZoo)	Puerto Almacén, Santa Cruz Department, Bolivia	-	-	-	WM-D6C or M1120
8391 (FonoZoo)	Heath River Wildlife Center, Bolivian shore of the Heath River, Abel Iturralde Province, La Paz Department, Bolivia	21:30	12 Mar 2009	26	WM-D6C
8393 (FonoZoo)	Heath River Wildlife Center, Bolivian shore of the Heath River, Abel Iturralde Province, La Paz Department, Bolivia	22:00	12 Mar 2009	24	WM-D6C
8367 (FonoZoo)	Leticia, Amazonas Department, Colombia	21:15	28 Dec 2009	24.8	WM-D6C
8308 (FonoZoo)	Pucaurquillo, Loreto Department, Peru	20:10	03 Dec 2009	25	WM-D6C
7679 (FonoZoo)	Pilcopata, Cusco Department, Peru	22:45	15 Jan 1971	23	U4000
7680 (FonoZoo)	Pilcopata, Cusco Department, Peru	22:55	15 Jan 1971	23	U4000
7681 (FonoZoo)	Pilcopata, Cusco Department, Peru	23:20	15 Jan 1971	23	U4000
7803 (FonoZoo)	Santa Cecilia, Sucumbíos Province, Ecuador	21:00	03 May 1969	26	U4000
7804 (FonoZoo)	Santa Cecilia, Sucumbíos Province, Ecuador	22:30	03 May 1969	25	U4000
7805 (FonoZoo)	Santa Cecilia, Sucumbíos Province, Ecuador	22:23	05 May 1969	23	U4000
7806 (FonoZoo)	Santa Cecilia, Sucumbíos Province, Ecuador	23:00	14 May 1969	23	U4000
7807 (FonoZoo)	Santa Cecilia, Sucumbíos Province, Ecuador	23:05	14 May 1969	23	U4000
7808 (FonoZoo)	Santa Cecilia, Sucumbíos Province, Ecuador	23:25	14 May 1969	23	U4000
Track 40 (CD Frogs of Tambopata)	Tambopata-Candamo National Park, Madre de Dios Department, Peru	-	-	24	-

Appendix II. Advertisement call traits of the populations of *Scinax garbei* sampled herein (each population is assigned to one of three main groups). *N* = number of individuals/number of calls analyzed. Values are given as mean \pm SD (range).

Call characteristics	Brazil			Southwestern			Northwestern		
	Alta Floresta, Brazil	Manaus, Brazil	Abel Iturralde, Bolivia	Puerto Almacén, Bolivia	Pilcopata, Peru	Tambopata, Peru	Santa Cecilia, Ecuador	Fucaurquillo, Peru	Leticia, Colombia
Duration (s)	2.0 \pm 0.5 (0.4–3.0)	1.4 \pm 1.0 (0.3–2.6)	0.8 \pm 0.1 (0.6–1.1)	0.9 \pm 0.3 (0.3–1.5)	0.8 \pm 0.2 (0.6–1.9)	1.3 \pm 0.2 (0.7–1.7)	0.5 \pm 0.1 (0.4–0.7)	0.5 \pm 0.1 (0.3–0.6)	0.5 \pm 0.1 (0.3–0.7)
Rate (calls/min)	18.9 \pm 9.2 (6.3–27.1)	2.1	30.0 \pm 12.2 (21.4–38.7)	25.7	10.5 \pm 1.6 (9.4–11.6)	27.5	48.9 \pm 27.0 (9.9–69.1)	30.1	39.0
Interval (s)	1.2 \pm 0.3 (0.4–2.0)	15.5 \pm 21.8 (4.2–69.6)	1.4 \pm 0.9 (0.7–3.4)	1.4 \pm 1.1 (0.6–5.0)	3.0 \pm 2.7 (0.5–7.8)	0.9 \pm 0.4 (0.5–1.9)	1.8 \pm 2.9 (0.2–30.1)	1.2 \pm 1.2 (0.4–3.0)	0.5 \pm 0.2 (0.3–0.8)
1 st pulse duration (ms)	5.3 \pm 1.1 (2.0–11.0)	5.2 \pm 2.6 (2.0–10.0)	7.6 \pm 2.3 (5.0–10.0)	8.4 \pm 1.7 (4.0–11.0)	6.7 \pm 0.9 (3.0–9.0)	8.2 \pm 1.8 (5.0–12.0)	6.3 \pm 2.0 (3.0–17.0)	5.8 \pm 1.2 (4.0–7.0)	6.4 \pm 1.9 (3.0–10.0)
Mid-portion pulse duration (ms)	7.7 \pm 0.8 (5.0–10.0)	8.2 \pm 1.1 (6.0–11.0)	6.6 \pm 1.5 (4.0–8.0)	8.9 \pm 1.3 (7.0–11.0)	7.2 \pm 0.2 (6.0–10.0)	8.6 \pm 0.7 (7.0–9.0)	7.7 \pm 1.6 (5.0–12.0)	5.0 \pm 0.9 (4.0–6.0)	8.0 \pm 1.5 (5.0–10.0)
Final pulse duration (ms)	9.9 \pm 0.5 (6.0–15.0)	11.2 \pm 1.9 (7.0–14.0)	8.4 \pm 1.3 (5.0–12.0)	9.1 \pm 2.2 (6.0–13.0)	13.0 \pm 2.4 (10.0–15.0)	9.4 \pm 1.7 (6.0–11.0)	9.8 \pm 1.9 (5.0–20.0)	7.8 \pm 2.6 (5.0–11.0)	10.5 \pm 2.7 (7.0–17.0)
1 st pulse interval (ms)	4.2 \pm 1.4 (1.0–19.0)	3.7 \pm 2.4 (1.0–9.0)	5.8 \pm 0.8 (3.0–9.0)	8.9 \pm 1.7 (5.0–13.0)	9.2 \pm 2.5 (6.0–22.0)	6.6 \pm 1.1 (5.0–9.0)	5.6 \pm 1.2 (2.0–16.0)	6.8 \pm 5.1 (4.0–17.0)	4.7 \pm 1.8 (2.0–8.0)
Mid-portion pulse interval (ms)	6.4 \pm 0.6 (5.0–9.0)	6.0 \pm 0.6 (5.0–7.0)	7.6 \pm 1.3 (6.0–11.0)	8.9 \pm 1.2 (7.0–11.0)	8.3 \pm 0.7 (5.0–9.0)	7.4 \pm 0.7 (7.0–9.0)	4.1 \pm 0.9 (1.0–7.0)	4.8 \pm 0.8 (4.0–6.0)	5.2 \pm 1.4 (3.0–8.0)
Final pulse interval (ms)	7.2 \pm 0.5 (4.0–10.0)	6.2 \pm 1.2 (5.0–8.0)	8.2 \pm 2.6 (5.0–11.0)	9.8 \pm 2.5 (6.0–14.0)	8.8 \pm 0.8 (7.0–12.0)	7.9 \pm 0.9 (6.0–10.0)	4.4 \pm 1.1 (2.0–9.0)	5.7 \pm 1.6 (3.0–8.0)	6.1 \pm 1.8 (4.0–9.0)
Pulse rate (pulses/s)	72.1 \pm 1.8 (69.0–76.9)	75.0 \pm 0.6 (74.5–76.1)	71.3 \pm 0.7 (69.0–72.2)	55.8 \pm 0.4 (54.9–56.2)	66.8 \pm 1.0 (65.2–68.2)	62.99 \pm 0.38 (62.50–63.82)	87.8 \pm 10.5 (76.1–103.1)	104.7 \pm 5.4 (96.8–108.7)	76.5 \pm 1.0 (74.5–78.7)
Minimum frequency (Hz)	825 \pm 50 (750–938)	914 \pm 24 (891–938)	1319 \pm 38 (1292–1378)	1652 \pm 51 (1550–1723)	1375 \pm 54 (1313–1406)	1545 \pm 15 (1507–1550)	1294 \pm 51 (1219–1406)	1328 \pm 50 (1249–1378)	1343 \pm 17 (1335–1378)
Maximum frequency (Hz)	3268 \pm 257 (2813–3703)	3371 \pm 120 (3188–3609)	3705 \pm 79 (3618–3790)	4462 \pm 247 (4221–4996)	4281 \pm 384 (3938–4781)	4436 \pm 88 (4264–4522)	3727 \pm 262 (3375–4313)	3445 \pm 177 (3230–3618)	3790 \pm 82 (3618–3876)
Dominant frequency of LFB (Hz)	989 \pm 23 (938–1219)	1007 \pm 24 (984–1031)	1513 \pm 69 (1421–1594)	1677 \pm 49 (1594–1723)	1719 \pm 31 (1688–1781)	1650 \pm 21 (1637–1680)	1616 \pm 84 (1500–1781)	1515 \pm 32 (1464–1550)	1515 \pm 26 (1464–1550)
Dominant frequency of HFB (Hz)	2905 \pm 145 (2627–3188)	2894 \pm 77 (2718–2953)	3286 \pm 63 (3058–3359)	3697 \pm 159 (3488–3876)	3521 \pm 126 (3281–3656)	3491 \pm 43 (3445–3575)	3367 \pm 311 (2906–4031)	3122 \pm 214 (2756–3316)	3512 \pm 91 (3273–3618)