

Albinism in a tadpole of *Hypsiboas albomarginatus* (Spix, 1824) (Anura: Hylidae) from Southeastern Brazil

Rodrigo de Oliveira Lula Salles^{*1}, Thiago Xisto², Tainá Ferreira¹ and Beatriz Nascimento³

Records of albinism in Brazilian amphibians species are rare (Sazima, 1974; Rodrigues and Oliveira-Filho, 2004; Brassaloti and Bertoluci, 2008; Toledo, 2011). Possibly this is due to be because it is a rare genetic anomaly in vertebrates (Bechtel, 1995), furthermore, albino tadpoles have a higher rate of predation (Childs Jr., 1953). Herein we present a record of albinism in the hylid treefrog *Hypsiboas albomarginatus* (Spix, 1824), from Southeastern Brazil.

During a field expedition on February 24th, 2012 at *Parque Natural Municipal da Taquara* (PNMT), Municipality of Duque de Caxias, State of Rio de Janeiro, Southeastern Brazil (-49.236524 S, -22.598598 W), at approximately 8 pm in a temporary pond (around 15 m long, 10 m wide and 25 cm deep), we were able to observe tadpoles of *Hypsiboas albomarginatus*. Among them, two were albinistic tadpoles. Two tadpoles were collected (albino tadpole MNRJ 80023; regular tadpole MNRJ 80022) (Figure 1). The specimens collected were housed at the *Coleção de Anfíbios do Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro*. The tadpoles identification was determined based on Peixoto and Cruz (1983). The stages follow Gosner (1960) and measurements follow Altig and McDiarmid (1999). Measurements (in millimeters) were taken by a stereomicroscope to the nearest 0.1 mm.

The albino specimen was at stage 37 with 44.93 mm long; body length measured 14.40 mm and tail length 28.59 mm.

The author (ROLS) has been collected anurans in the PNMT since 2006 (Salles et al., 2009), but had never observed albino individuals in the area. The first record of albinism in *Hypsiboas albomarginatus* is also the first record in the genus *Hypsiboas* and second for Brazilian hylid species (Sazima, 1974).

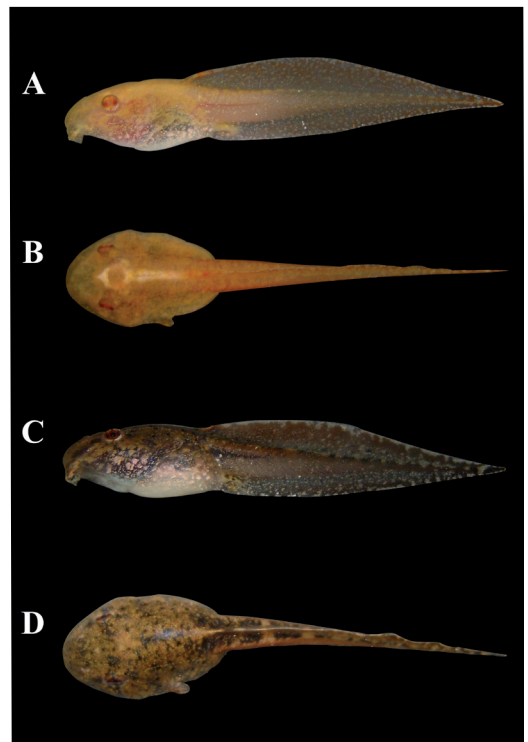


Figure 1. Tadpole of *Hypsiboas albomarginatus* from Parque Natural Municipal da Taquara, Municipality of Duque de Caxias, State of Rio de Janeiro. Albino tadpole (MNRJ 80023): A – Lateral view; B – Dorsal view. Regular tadpole (MNRJ 80024): C – Lateral view; D – Dorsal view.

¹Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Museu Nacional, Departamento de Vertebrados, Quinta da Boa Vista. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

²Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Museu Nacional, Departamento de Entomologia, Laboratório de Colémbola, Quinta da Boa Vista. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

³Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Departamento de Biologia Marinha, Laboratório de Zooplâncton Marinho. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

*Corresponding author: sallesbio@gmail.com

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