

First records of the Greenhouse Frog (*Eleutherodactylus planirostris*) in Southern Negros, Philippines

Abner A. BUCOL, Lilibeth A. BUCOL
abnerbucol2017@gmail.com

Observers: Abner A. Bucol, Lilibeth A. Bucol.

Photograph by: Abner A. Bucol.

Subject identified by: Abner A. Bucol, Emerson Sy.

Locations:

(i) Amigo Subdivision, Barangay Piapi, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, Philippines (9.318572°, 123.310619°).

(ii) Daro, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, Philippines (9.315925°, 123.302715°).

Elevation: 2-3 metres ASL.

Habitat: Lowland residential areas with gardens.

Date and time: (i) 20 Sep 2017, 18:00 hrs. (ii) 01 May 2019, 19:00 hrs.

Identity of subjects: Greenhouse Frog, *Eleutherodactylus planirostris* (Amphibia: Anura: Eleutherodactylidae).

Description of records: Figure 1 is an image of our first observation of the Greenhouse Frog *Eleutherodactylus planirostris* in Barangay Piapi, Dumaguete. The frog was spotted by L. Bucol inside a bathroom, which has an opening that connects to a temporary drainage outside with accumulated rocks and few vegetation. Another frog was later found just beside the same property, inside an abandoned container that collects rainwater.

In Barangay Daro, Dumaguete, we also found this frog: after a prolonged period of dry days a juvenile was found inside a bathroom, where it stayed for several nights. The first author then searched during rainy nights in late May and June and found at least six individuals of this frog just outside our residence, in an area with extensive cover of grasses and sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), and with a leaf litter of mango leaves (*Mangifera indica*).



Fig. 1.

© Abner A. Bucol

Remarks:

The spread of the introduced Greenhouse Frog (*Eleutherodactylus planirostris*) in the Philippines is being closely monitored by Emerson Sy and others (Sy 2017a,b; Sy & del Prado, 2019; Pili et al. 2019). The historical accounts of the spread of this species from its native range (Cuba, Bahamas and Cayman Islands) to the Philippines via Hawaii has been described in greater details in a recent paper by Pili et al. (2019).

This species has not been reported to occur in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental in Southern Negros but it was reported by Sy et al. (2015) in Bacolod (156 km to the north) in the northern section of Negros Island. Its presence in Dumaguete is interesting because of its proximity to Cuernos de Negros mountain range, which is home to several endemic forest frogs. There exists an ornamental plant trade in neighboring towns and villages (e.g. Valencia town and Janay-janay near Twin Lakes Natural Park): we postulate that this frog has reached Dumaguete via this trade. There is a risk that this species might soon compete with native species (including endemics) in the area.

References:

- Pili, A. N., Sy, E. Y., Diesmos, M. L. L. & Diesmos, A. C. (2019). Island Hopping in a Biodiversity Hotspot Archipelago: Reconstructed Invasion History and Updated Status and Distribution of Alien Frogs in the Philippines. *Pacific Science* 73(3): 321-343.
- Sy, E. Y., Martyr, J.C. & Diesmos, A. C. (2015) Geographic distribution: *Eleutherodactylus planirostris* (Greenhouse Frog). *Herpetological Review* 46(1): 56
- Sy, E. Y. (2017a). Geographic distribution: *Eleutherodactylus planirostris* (Greenhouse Frog): Philippines, Mactan Island, Cebu Province. *Herpetological Review* 48(3): 583.
- Sy, E. Y. (2017b). Geographic distribution: *Eleutherodactylus planirostris* (Greenhouse Frog): Philippines, Palawan Island. *Herpetological Review* 48(3): 583
- Sy, E. & del Prado, Y. L. C. (2019). New distributional records of introduced frogs on Leyte Island, Philippines. *Southeast Asia Vertebrate Records* 2019: 065-067.