

A Survivor Against All Odds: A New Glass Frog from Manu National Park, Peru, Renews Hope for Amphibian Conservation

By Alessandro Catenazzi

The latest addition to the amphibian fauna of the species-rich eastern slopes of the Andes is a glass frog of the genus *Centrolene* (1). The species is named in honor of Andrew Sabin, in recognition of his long-term support of herpetology and dedication to environmental education. This beautiful and moderately large glass frog is distinguished from other related species by morphological characteristics and a peculiar advertisement call composed of long calls with 8–14 peaked notes (instead of the short tonal note typical of glassfrogs). Moreover, the description is supported by a phylogeny of the genus that shows the placement of the new species and its relationship with congeners.

The new species inhabits fast-running streams in the upper Manu National Park in southeastern Peru. Amphibian communities in this region have collapsed over the past decade, during an epidemic of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* that is the likely cause of the local extinction of most sympatric species of glass frogs (2). In addition to other glass frogs, the two species of harlequin toads, other toad species, several treefrogs and other stream-breeding species have vanished from the otherwise intact montane forests of Manu National Park. *Centrolene sabinii* is a survivor of this epidemic: the species has just been heard again at the type locality last month. Its long and redundant call is a reminder that hope is not lost for frogs, and an admonition to renew our efforts to preserve amphibian diversity.



Centrolene sabinii named in honor of Andrew Sabin, in recognition of his long-term support of herpetology and dedication to environmental education. Photo: Alessandro Catenazzi.

References

1. A. Catenazzi, R. von May, E. Lehr, G. Gagliardi-Urrutia, J. M. Guayasamin, *Zootaxa* 3388, 56 (2012).
2. A. Catenazzi, E. Lehr, L.O. Rodriguez, V.T. Vredenburg. *Conserv. Biol.* 25, 382 (2011).

The Prince Charles Stream Tree Frog

A rare species of Ecuadorian stream frog has been named *Hyloscirtus princecharlesi*, or Prince Charles Stream Tree Frog, in honor of the Prince of Wales. Dr. Coloma discovered the new species in 2008 among preserved museum specimens and immediately recognized the specimens as unique, a new species in the hylid genus *Hyloscirtus*. Dr. Coloma realized that for this rare species to persist in the wild, it would require further scientific and conservation action in the field and in the laboratory.

Dr. Coloma is leading conservation efforts and inviting those interested in supporting the efforts to contact him. To date, [Amphibian Survival Alliance](#) (ASA) partner [Amphibian Ark](#) have helped coordinate the initial press release and are assisting in developing the ex-situ element of the initiative. The ASG, through its partnership with the ASA, is also working with Dr. Coloma and Amphibian Ark to identify potential sources of funding to support any in-situ activities.

If you are interested in being involved in this project please feel free to contact Dr. Coloma at [Centro Jambatu \(centrojambatu@otonga.org\)](mailto:centrojambatu@otonga.org)



Hyloscirtus princecharlesi,
Photo: L. Coloma.