Eleutherodactylus amadeus
Hedges, Thomas, and Franz

Eleutherodactylus amadeus Hedges et al. 1987:943. Type locality, "Foron Ridge Camp, on the south slope of Morne Formon (Foron Ridge), 3.0 km N Base Camp (2.6 km N, 15.1 km W Camp Perrin, airline distance), Dépt. du Sud, Haiti (18°20′59″ N, 74°00′38″ W, 1650 m)." Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 258676, adult male, one of a series collected 13–15 July 1985, by S. Blair Hedges and Richard Thomas (examined by SBH).

- Content. No subspecies are recognized.
- Definition. Eleutherodactylus amadeus is one of the smaller (mean SVL 18.7 mm in males, n = 15; 23.4 mm in females, n = 15) members of the genus (Hedges et al. 1987). The dorsum is smooth and the venter nearly so (fine corrugations or indentations are present, but usually no tubercles or areolae). Supraaxillary, inguinal, and postfemoral gland areas are microscopically visible in males and most females. Digital discs are expanded, with the largest discs about 1/3–1/2 the horizontal diameter of the tympanum. Internal paired subgular vocal sacs are present in most adult males.

- Distribution. This Hispaniolan South Island endemic is known only from the eastern Massif de la Hotte in Haiti, where it occurs at moderate to high elevations (1000–2340 m) in pine and associated woodlands. Generally encountered under rocks and logs by day, individuals may forage and males may call from the ground or up to 50 cm in herbaceous vegetation. The range was illustrated by Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

- Fossil Record. None.

- Pertinent Literature. Hedges et al. (1987) described the species and left its species group allocation "uncertain." Hedges (1989), based on protein electrophoretic, immunological, and morphological data, placed it in the bakeri series, subgenus Eleutherodactylus. Additional comments on the bakeri series (including E. amadeus) were given in Hedges and Thomas (1992a, b). Duellman (1993) agreed with its subgeneric assignment, but Lynch and Duellman (1997) disagreed, and placed this species in the newly created abbotti group, abbotti series, subgenus Eleutherodactylus.

The species is included in checklists by Schwartz and Henderson (1988) and Powell et al. (1996). Frank and Ramus (1995) provided a common name, Haitian Robber Frog, which we prefer not to use.

- Etymology. The name amadeus is a patronym honoring Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in allusion to the resemblance of the wideband audiospectrogram of this species to musical notes (Hedges et al. 1987).
Acknowledgment. This work was supported in part by grants from the National Science Foundation to SBH.

Literature Cited


S.B. Blair Hedges, Department of Biology and Institute of Molecular Evolutionary Genetics, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, and Robert Powell, Department of Natural Sciences, Avila College, Kansas City, MO 64145.

Primary editor for this account, John D. Lynch.

Published 30 January 1998 and Copyright © 1998 by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.