



## Comments on the neotype of *Rana margaritifera* Laurenti, 1768 (Anura, Bufonidae)

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After more than two and half centuries regarding the identity of *Rana margaritifera* Laurenti, 1768, Lavilla *et al.* (2013) designated a neotype for the species. The authors did an extensive search to locate the type material of Laurenti (1768) and failed in finding the specimen in question. Consequently, they selected an adult female collected in the Municipality of Humaitá, State of Amazonas, Brazil, on 12 April 1985 and deposited in the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, MNRJ 71538. This action, was carried out to solve a specific taxonomic problem in Neotropical amphibian systematics, i.e., the type specimen considered lost and the type locality uncertain. However, this action proved to be erroneous, since the type specimen is not lost.

Shortly after the publication of the referred work (Lavilla *et al.*, 2013), the article by Milto and Barbanov (2011) came to our attention. This article is a list of the amphibians' types housed at the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, Russia (ZISP), and includes some of the specimens formerly in the Albertus Seba's Collections. The first of Seba's collection was acquired by Peter the Great in 1715 and the second was auctioned in Amsterdam in 1752, among them the type specimen in question. Included in the listed specimens, the authors (Milto & Barbanov, 2011) identified the individual ZISP 257.1 as the one illustrated by Seba (1734, pl. 76, figs. 6–7), being the specimen on which Laurenti (1768) based the description of *Rana margaritifera*.

As a result, and after a careful comparison of the photograph of figure 17 of Milto and Barbanov (2011), depicting the putative holotype of *Rana margaritifera*, with plate 71, figures 6 and 7 of Seba (1734), in both black-and-white and colorized versions, we concur that they represent the same specimen. Thus, we accept Milto and Barbanov (2011) identification of ZISP 257.1 as the individual depicted by Seba (1734), and the one on which Laurenti (1768) erected the name *Rana margaritifera*; therefore, this specimen is the holotype of the species by monotypy.

This fact has the following consequences: (1) It is mandatory to apply Art. 75.8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) to set aside the neotype MNRJ 71538 defined by Lavilla *et al.* (2013). (2) *Rhinella margaritifera* (Laurenti, 1768) regains its status of *species inquirenda*, because its name-bearing type cannot be associated to any of the known populations of “mitred toads” hitherto recorded. (3) The type locality of *Rhinella margaritifera* returns to “Brasília”, as synonym of Brazil, not to the capital city of that country (Laurenti, 1768: 30); in this way, the type locality for *Rhinella margaritifera* becomes again uncertain.

## References

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