

LYSAPSUS LIMELLUS (NCN). REPRODUCTIVE TRAITS.

Lysapsus limellus is restricted to areas along the Paraguay and Paraná Rivers, from Rondonia and Matto Grosso (Brazil) to central Argentina. Within Argentina, *L. limellus* occurs in the provinces of Chaco, Formosa, Corrientes, and Santa Fé, and north of Buenos Aires (Ceï 1980. Amphibians of Argentina. Monit. Zool. Ital. (NS) Monog. 2: 609 pp.). *Lysapsus limellus* is very aquatic, occurring in semi-permanent and permanent ponds (Hamann and Kehr 1997. Herpetol. Rev. 28:85; Kehr and Basso 1990. Copeia 1990:573–575.). Herein we report the first reproductive traits of the species.

Between February 1995 and November 1997, in seven samples, we collected 91 specimens (43 males and 48 females). Fifteen gravid females were collected on the following dates: 17 Feb 95 (N = 5), 28 Nov 95 (N = 3), 24 Feb 97 (N = 2), 10 Mar 97 (N = 1), 9 Apr 97 (N = 1), 4 Nov 97 (N = 2), and 13 Nov 97 (N = 1). The samples were taken in four permanent and one semipermanent ponds located ca. 15 km from Corrientes city (27°30'S, 58°45'W), province of Corrientes, Argentina. Frogs were captured by hand between 2000 and 2200 h, preserved in 10% formalin, and deposited in the CECOAL (Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral) collection (frogs captured 1995 in lot #026; 1997 in lot #544). Gravid females were 17.8–29.2 mm SVL (mean 20.2 mm; SD 2.7 mm), body mass was 0.34–1.67 g (mean 1.09 g; SD 0.37 g), mature ova count range was 35–131 (mean 76.3; SD 28.6), and ma-

ture ovum diameter range was 0.52–0.73 mm (mean 0.6 mm; SD 0.06 mm). Male SVL (N = 43) range was 13.8–19.5 mm (mean 16.99 mm; SD 1.44 mm) and body mass range was 0.43–1.5 g (mean 1.07 g; SD 0.35 g). There was significant difference in SVL between gravid and non-gravid females (t-test 5.3, df 46, $p < 0.001$), but no significant difference between body mass (t-test 0.88; df 46, $p > 0.05$). The difference in SVL between males and gravid females was significant, with females larger (t-test -5.84; df 56, $p < 0.01$), while the difference between these groups in body mass was not significant (t-test -0.25; df 56, $p > 0.79$). Furthermore, no significant difference was observed in SVL or body mass between males and non-gravid females (SVL [t-test 1.65; df 74, $p > 0.05$]; body weight [t-test 0.93; df 74, $p > 0.05$]). Finally, *L. limellus* has a reproductive mode that is characterized by eggs deposited freely in lentic water (Duellman and Trueb 1986. Biology of the Amphibians. McGraw Hill Book Co., 670 pp.). Table 1 summarizes the number and morphometric features of gravid females and males captured by each sampling date and pond type.

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LYSAPSUS LIMELLUS (NINA) REPRODUCTIVE TRAITS

Lysapsus limellus is restricted to areas along the Paraguay and Paraná Rivers, from Argentina and Mato Grosso (Brazil) to central Argentina. Walter A. Siqueira, L. Siqueira occurs in the provinces of Chaco, Formosa, Corrientes, and Santa Fé, and north of Uruguay River (Col 1940). Association of Argentine Mammal Zool. Inst. (1994) (Lima, 2000).

TABLE 1. Length, weight, and fecundity data for 15 gravid female and 43 male *Lysapsus limellus*. Date = date of capture and pond type; Sex = sex of specimens; SVL = mean snout-vent length \pm one standard deviation; WT = mean body weight \pm one standard deviation; Ova Number = mean mature ova number \pm 1 SD; Diameter Ovum = mean diameter mature ovum \pm 1 SD.

Date	Sex	SVL (mm)	WT (g)	Ova Number	Diameter Ovum (mm)
02/17/95 Permanent	Female (N = 5)	19.5 \pm 1.4	0.94 \pm 0.11	74.2 \pm 27.3	0.583 \pm 0.05
	Male (N = 9)	16.3 \pm 1.9	0.58 \pm 0.15	—	—
11/28/95 Permanent	Female (N = 3)	20.5 \pm 0.8	1.46 \pm 0.17	61.33 \pm 17.5	0.632 \pm 0.03
	Male (N = 0)	—	—	—	—
02/24/97 and 03/10/97 Permanent	Female (N = 3)	20.0 \pm 1.3	1.4 \pm 0.60	106.3 \pm 39.3	0.610 \pm 0.03
	Male (N = 6)	15.3 \pm 0.8	0.784 \pm 0.24	—	—
04/09/97 Semipermanent	Female (N = 1)	29.2	1.67	46	0.736
	Male (N = 19)	17.4 \pm 1.0	1.34 \pm 0.18	—	—
11/04/97 and 11/13/97 Permanent	Female (N = 3)	18.4 \pm 0.8	0.863 \pm 0.18	75 \pm 14.4	0.553 \pm 0.03
	Male (N = 9)	17.6 \pm 1.2	1.12 \pm 0.16	—	—

16.79 mm, SD 1.44 mm) and body mass range was 0.43–1.3 g (mean 1.07 g; SD 0.35 g). There was significant difference in SVL between gravid and non-gravid females (t-test 3.1, df 46, $p < 0.001$), but no significant difference between body mass (t-test 0.85, df 46, $p > 0.05$). The difference in SVL between males and gravid females was significant, with females larger (t-test -5.84, df 56, $p < 0.001$), while the difference between these groups in body mass was not significant (t-test -0.25, df 56, $p > 0.79$). Furthermore, no significant difference was observed in SVL or body mass between males and non-gravid females (SVL, (t-test 1.53, df 74, $p > 0.05$), body weight (t-test 0.93, df 74, $p > 0.05$). Finally, *L. limellus* has a reproductive mode that is characterized by eggs deposited freely in lentic water (Duellman and Trueb 1986, Biology of the Amphibians, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 679 pp.). Table 1 summarizes the number and morphometric features of gravid females and males captured by each sampling date and pond type.

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