

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF TAILLESS  
BATRACHIAN FROM TROPICAL AMERICA.

BY

LEONHARD STEJNEGER AND FREDERICK C. TEST.

(With Plate III.)

**Tetraprion**, gen. nov.

(τετραρας, four; πριων, saw.)

Of the family *Hylidæ*: Pectoral arch arciferous; no ribs; no mandibular teeth; vertebræ procœle; sacral vertebra with dilated diaphyses and two condyles for articulation with the simple coccygeal style; terminal phalanges claw-shaped.

One long series of teeth on parasphenoid bone; vomerine teeth; *a series of teeth on the palatines*; head rough, bony, the skin being involved in the cranial ossification; tympanum distinct; fingers and toes webbed, the tips dilated into regular disks; outer metatarsals not bound together(?); omosternum and sternum cartilaginous; pupil horizontal(?); tongue —?

TYPE: *Tetraprion jordani*.

**Tetraprion jordani**, sp. nov.

Vomerine teeth in two well separated, nearly transverse groups situated on a level with the posterior border of the choanæ, each group consisting of about five rather large teeth; a single, transverse, slightly s-curved series of closely set small teeth on each palatine behind the choanæ; teeth on parasphenoid small, closely set, forming a long, single series; top of head bony, very rough, especially the ridges; canthus rostralis forms a prominent sharp ridge; loreal region very concave; interorbital space very wide and concave; a prominent bony supratympanic ridge; posterior border of "helmet" nearly straight, slightly concave in the middle; tympanum circular, its diameter four-sevenths of diameter of orbit; fingers one-third webbed, first nearly free, opposable; toes nearly one-half webbed; disks much smaller than tympanum; tibio-tarsal articulation reaches the tympanum; skin above and on throat and chest smooth; rest of under surface granulate. Color can not be made out satisfactorily, but seems to be brownish above and uniform whitish below.

Length of head from mouth to posterior border of helmet, 21 millimetres; length of head and body, 71 millimetres; greatest width of head, 21 millimetres.

TYPE: U. S. National Museum, No. 12274.

HABITAT: Guayaquil, Ecuador.



This interesting novelty is dedicated to Dr. David S. Jordan, president of the Leland Stanford Junior University of California.

Although evidently nearly related to *Triprion*, it differs from all known *Hylidæ* in possessing teeth on the palatines, a character which in itself seems sufficient to warrant its generic separation. With *Triprion* and *Diaglena* it shares the possession of teeth on the parasphenoid. The latter are firmly fixed to the bone, while the palatine teeth, which form a slightly s-curved line on each side posterior to the choanæ, only adhere to the membrane covering the palatine bones. We are thus confronted with an entirely unique dentition, for it seems that not even in the family *Hemiphractidæ*, which is composed of genera with both palatine and parasphenoid teeth, do we find a genus in which they occur simultaneously. The presence of parasphenoid and palatine teeth in otherwise undoubtedly Hylid genera, coupled with the occurrence of claw-shaped terminal phalanges in *Ceratohyla*, makes it doubtful whether the presence of mandibular teeth in the *Amphignathodontidæ* and *Hemiphractidæ* really have the value now attributed to them as constituting a family character. That the non-dilatation of the diaphyses of the sacral vertebra in the *Hemiphractidæ* in itself is of but little consequence seems evident from the variability of this character within the family *Hylidæ*.

It is stated above that in *Tetraprion* the outer metatarsals are not bound together. This would be an important character, but I am not sure that the very soft condition of the type is not responsible for this state of affairs.

The tongue was found removed by some accident in the hitherto unique type of this species.

Owing to the bad preservation of the specimen it is impossible to say with absolute certainty what is the shape of the pupil, but Mr. Test thinks that he once made it out to be horizontal.

The figures on the accompanying plate will illustrate and supplement the above description. It will be noted that the epicoracoid cartilages overlap considerably, and that the precoracoids and coracoids so far from being parallel, as they are said to be in the *Hemiphractidæ*, on the contrary are greatly divergent.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE III.

##### TETRAPRION JORDANI.

Drawn by Frederick C. Test.

Fig. 1, Top of head; 2, Palate, showing dentition; 3, Pectoral arch; 4, Pelvis; 5, Dorsal view of right hand; 6, Dorsal view of right foot; 7, Distal phalanx of finger: *a*, dorsal view; *b*, ventral view; *c*, lateral view.

(Figs. 1-6, enlarged one-third. Fig. 7, enlarged two-thirds.)



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