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Leptodactylus albilabris (Gunther): A Species of Toad New to the Fauna of the United States.

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AMONG the collections made in Texas during the summer of 1931 by J. S. Wright and myself is a small leptodactilid toad, which offers something of a problem in the way of identification. Through the kindness of Mrs. Helen T. Gaige, Museum of Zoölogy, Ann Arbor, the specimen was examined and dissected, and found to belong to the genus *Leptodactylus*. She also forwarded for comparison specimens of the species *L. albilabris* Günther from Vera Cruz, and St. Croix Island, which seem to approach this form in many characters.

From these two forms, which differ considerably from each other, I note that the Texas specimen differs in the absence of a distinct dorsolateral fold, the very much larger choanæ (nearly twice the area of those in the compared specimens), the presence of larger triangular bony prominences, on which the vomerine teeth occur, and their separation by a much greater distance (more than a half of their transverse length); the very narrow lateral fold is not continuous with the small supratympanic fold. There is a small forward extension of the snout to form a "nose." The dorsal coloration in life is ash gray to clay without black spots, while the compared forms are dark blackish brown with well-defined large dark spots.

From the specimen from St. Croix (the type locality of *Leptodactylus albilabris* Günther) I note that the tips of the digits are distinctly less widened, in fact not at all dilated; that the head is longer, more pointed; the eye relatively smaller; and that the ventral brown spotting is lacking.

From the Vera Cruz specimens it differs in having a flatter, more pointed head; a different coloration. It also differs in the points mentioned above. It agrees with both forms in the presence of a

well-defined cream-colored labial line, and the presence of a discoidal disk formed by a skin fold on the abdomen.

Cope* has described a species, *L. labialis*, which has small choanæ, and a paucity of dermal folds, and *L. gracilis*¹ with a projecting muzzle and having dermal folds.

Brocchi² has described *L. fragilis* with the vomerine teeth in arched series, with the tympanum nearly as large as the eye.

Remington Kellogg, who is reviewing the Amphibians of Mexico, proposes to place *labialis* Cope, *gracilis* Cope, and *fragilis* Brocchi all under the synonymy of *L. albilabris* Günther.

So for the present it seems that this Texas specimen must rest as *Lepidodactylus albilabris* Günther until a sufficient series of specimens are available to determine whether the separable characters, apparent in the specimen, are typical or due to individual variation.

The specimen was taken late at night hopping about on the table-like top of one of the row of hills just north of the Los Olmos bridge, near Rio Grande City, Tex. The earth was dry, and no rain had fallen for a period of forty-eight hours. The species probably shelters itself in the crevices of the rocky ledge which surrounds the top of the hill.

The following description will serve to identify this species:

The snout oval, the outline broken by a slight pointed projection of the "nose"; the head measures, length 11.5 mm. to angle of the jaw; the width at same point is 9.7 mm.; canthus rostralis rounded, the ridge continued downward in front of eye; between this ridge and the nostril the loreal region is distinctly concave; eye moderate, length of orbit 3.7 mm., the distance from the nostril 2.8 mm., and its distance from the tip of the snout 4.2 mm.; tympanum very distinct, rounded, 1.7 mm. long by 1.5 mm. high, separated from eye by half its greatest diameter; a slight supratympanic fold from eye, involving upper edge of the tympanum but bending down some distance behind the posterior edge of tympanum; labial fold distinct posteriorly, becomes very indistinct anteriorly and terminates below nostril; in lateral profile the snout extends beyond the mouth; the angle of mouth reaches directly below tympanum; the distance between orbits 2.4 mm.; of upper eyelid width 1.8 mm.

Skin on head smooth, showing microscopic corrugation; the dorso-lateral fold wanting, represented by a few low rounded or somewhat

* Cope: Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. XVII (1877), p. 90.

1. Cope: Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. (1869), p. 162.

2. Brocchi: Bull. Soc. Philom. 1 (1877), p. 182.

elongate pustules; a sharply defined, very narrow lateral fold extends from above arm to groin; above this a few elongate or rounded pustules low and indistinct; below this fold the skin on chin, breast, abdomen and limbs smooth except for a strongly granular distinctly limited area on ventral femoral region; two prominent granules below anus; a transverse fold across the breast between insertion of arms more or less connected with a lateral abdominal fold, which curves across the posterior abdomen, forming a disk; a small diagonal fold running back from edge of disk to pubic region; limbs not especially long, the tibia 12.5 mm. is distinctly longer than the femur 10.1 mm.; from heel to tip of longest toe 19 mm.; an elongate sharply defined inner metatarsal tubercle, and a smaller rounded outer; subarticular tubercles strongly defined save under the last distal joint; heel tubercular with a distinct fold; rows of small tubercles below the metatarsals; tips of digits not dilated, the terminal phalanx (bone) pointed, somewhat clawlike; no webs present or only vestiges; two large palmar tubercles, an elongate inner at base of thumb, and a larger rounded basal tubercle with an anterior extension; first row of subarticular tubercles strongly defined; the first finger longer than second by the length of the last phalanx.

Color: Above rather lead gray with a few very irregularly scattered, slightly dark, grayish blotches; a dark vitta from snout through nostril to eye, continued behind to the tympanum; another irregular black line begins above tympanum and follows the supratympanic fold; below this a narrow, well-defined cream line, bordered below on lip by an irregular, less intense, dark line continued to angle of jaw; a few black spots on posterior part of lower jaw; arm with a few small dark spots, and a few also in axillary region; anterior side of femur with a dark horizontal line and small spots; upper and posterior surface of limb spotted; an indistinct cream horizontal line borders the granular edge of the under part of the femur, below which are a few small dark spots; under surface of chin through abdomen and limbs uniformly cream; a dark broad line from heel across foot. The measurements are, head and body, 25 mm.; foreleg, 13 mm.; hindleg, 40 mm.

The openings of the choanæ are well back from tip of snout—2.5 mm.—their entire outline plainly visible; vomerine teeth on two triangular raised patches, separated by slightly more than half their greatest width; they are between and almost wholly behind choanæ and border the raised eye sockets.



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