

## New locality records for *Boophis xerophilus* and *B. doulioti* (Anura: Mantellidae) from Bezà Mahafaly Special Reserve, southwest Madagascar

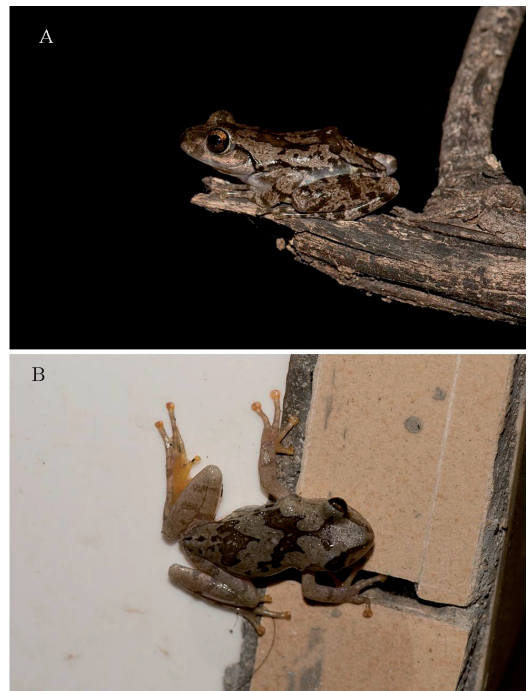
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The genus *Boophis* Tschudi, 1838 comprises more than 70 species of arboreal frogs endemic to the Malagasy region (Madagascar and the neighbouring island of Mayotte), where they are largely distributed in Madagascar's eastern rainforests (Glaw and Vences, 2007; Glaw et al., 2010). Only few species are known from the dry regions of western and southern Madagascar (Vences and Glaw 2002), including *B. doulioti* (Angel, 1934) and *B. xerophilus* Glaw & Vences, 1997. The latter is a poorly known species hitherto recorded from only three areas: Kirindy and surrounding forests in central Menabe (Glos et al., 2008), Ambavaloza (Kirindy Mitea National Park) in southern Menabe (Raselimanana, 2008; Raselimanana et al., undated), and Berenty in the Androy region of the southeast (Glaw and Vences, 1997). Here we present a new locality record for *B. xerophilus* and the more widespread *B. doulioti* from Bezà Mahafaly Special Reserve in southwest Madagascar.

On 15 June 2013 at 20:19 and again on 16 June 2013, we observed two individuals of *B. xerophilus* inside large, plastic water containers adjacent to the shower block at Bezà Mahafaly research station (23°39.2' S, 044°37.5' E, 140 m a.s.l.). The animals were identified as *B. xerophilus* by the presence of large, dark, symmetrical dorsal markings (Fig. 1), which are absent or have a different shape in the sympatric *B. doulioti*, the only similar species known from the region (Glaw

and Vences, 1997). We also recorded an individual of *B. doulioti* in a water container adjacent to the main building of the research centre (Fig. 2).

No *Boophis* species has previously been reported from Bezà Mahafaly Special Reserve (Ratsirarson et al., 2001; Ratsirarson pers. comm.), which lies approximately 395 km away from Kirindy, 330 km away from Ambavaloza, and 226 km away from Berenty (Fig. 3). Its location, approximately in between the known localities, is a significant range extension of this poorly known species



**Figure 1.** A) Lateral, and B) dorsal views of two individuals of *Boophis xerophilus* recorded at Bezà Mahafaly Special Reserve.

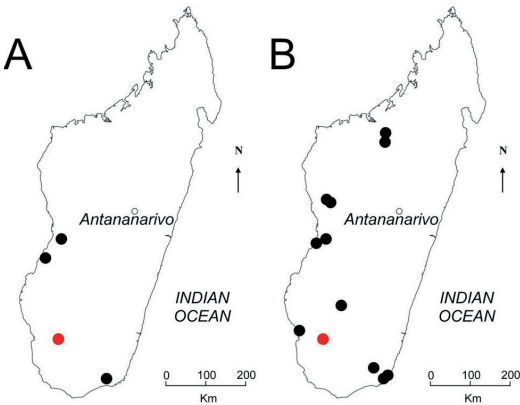
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**Figure 2.** *Boophis doulioti* recorded at Bezà Mahafaly Special Reserve.



**Figure 3.** Maps of Madagascar showing the approximate location of known records (black dots) and new locality records (red dots) of A) *Boophis xerophilus* and B) *B. doulioti* from the Bezà Mahafaly Special Reserve.

and suggests that the species may be more widespread than currently recognised in southern and western Madagascar, where suitable habitat exists (see Glos and Linsenmair, 2005). The lack of records of this species from Bezà Mahafaly is surprising given that the site has been the focus of research for field biologists, albeit largely primatologists, since the 1980s (Richard and Ratsirarson, 2013), and the highly visible nature of the frogs within the centre.

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