

Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae, *Scinax granulatus* (Peters, 1871): Distribution extension in central Argentina

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ABSTRACT: This paper presents novelty information about the distribution of *Scinax granulatus* in Argentina. These records were made ca. 300 km from the closest known locality. Here we propose that the species is expanding its range following the tree implantation in a former treeless habitat like the Pampas.

Scinax granulatus (Peters, 1871) ranges from southeastern Brazil (Moresco *et al.* 2009) through Uruguay (Nuñez *et al.* 2004) to northeastern Argentina, with dubious records from Paraguay (Brusquetti and Lavilla 2006). In Argentina it had been found only in Misiones, Entre Ríos and the extreme northeast of Buenos Aires provinces (Cei 1980). There are few records for northeastern area of Buenos Aires province (Gallardo 1961) and exists a single record one from then southeastern part (Barrasso and Cajade 2007).

Two individuals were found at 21:30 h on January 2nd 2010, in the outskirts of General Villegas, Buenos Aires province (35°1'31" S, 63°0'14" W) (Figure 1). Both were calling from the surrounding vegetation of a temporary pond that was in a wooded area with short grass and scarce aquatic vegetation. The pond had several trees and bushes in one of the edges, mostly *Salix* sp. The air temperature was 23 °C and the water was 16 °C. We were able to obtain sound recordings and photographs of one individual which was used to obtain the specific identification (Figure 2). One individual was kept and deposited at the herpetological collection of Museo de La Plata (MLPA.5163).

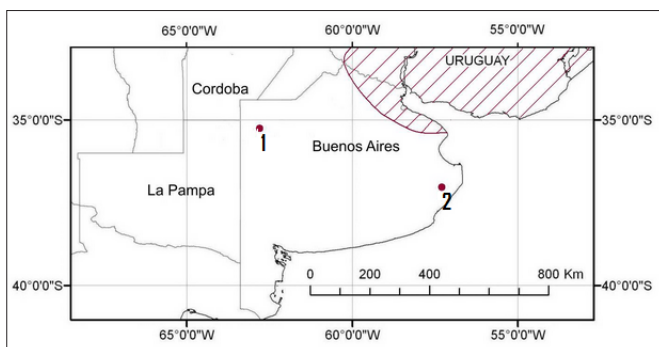


FIGURE 1. Map that shows the species distribution and the two extralimital records from Buenos Aires province. 1) General Villegas (this article); 2) General Madariaga (Barrasso and Cajade 2007).



FIGURE 2. Individual collected on January 2nd 2010 in General Villegas, Buenos Aires.

We had obtained two previous records, but in neither of them we could obtain physical evidence. On December 17th 2009 one individual was heard in a temporary pond located at 4.5 km from the area mentioned above. This pond also had some exotic vegetation around. Lately, on February 12th 2010, after heavy rains, at least two other individuals were heard at a nearby pond from the site where we collected the original individual, and also with the same physiognomy.

These records represent a range extension of about 300 km westward from the closest known locality which is at eastern Buenos Aires province (see Gallardo 1961), and constitute the westernmost locality for the species.

Basing on the information mentioned above we consider that *Scinax granulatus* has a stable population in the area; however, there is a possibility that it has colonized it recently. This fact is in agreement with the lack of previous records from the area. This scenario of a modern colonization is supported by the fact that the species mainly inhabits wooded marshy areas, or at least with scattered trees to use as natural refuges. This type of habitat was naturally absent in the entire west part of Buenos Aires province (Cabrera 1971). A more extensive

search for this species further south, as well as in La Pampa and southeastern Córdoba provinces, will provide new evidence on its geographic distribution.

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