

he tentatively proposed 10 species groups, based on external morphology. Taxonomic definitions at the species level also have been modified (LIU & HU 1961) what should be reflected in adjusted distribution patterns. BOURRET (1942) reported on *Rhacophorus feae* BOULENGER, 1893 (*Rh. dennysii* BLANFORD, 1881 group) as a subspecies of *Rh. nigropalmatus* from Sa Pa, but he did not mention *Rh. nigropalmatus* BOULENGER, 1895 [*Rh. reinwardtii* (SCHLEGEL, 1840) group] to occur in Vietnam. He also considered *Rh. dennysi* BLANFORD, 1881 (*Rh. dennysii* group) to be a subspecies of *Rh. nigropalmatus*. INGER et al. (1999) stated that *Rh. nigropalmatus* should be excluded from the fauna of Vietnam, but we collected *Rh. nigropalmatus* (MNHN 1997.5449-5451, IEBR D545, D678, D683) in Ben En (Than Hoa province) as well as *Rh. dennysii* (MNHN 1997.5409) in Ben En (Than Hoa Province) and Huu Lien (Lang Son Province). Both species have to be included in the list of Vietnamese amphibians.

Furthermore, we describe the following new species of this genus collected at Sa Pa.

Rhacophorus duboisi nov. sp.

This new species seems closely related to the *Rh. dugritei* group of DUBOIS (1987), which includes *R. dugritei* (DAVID, 1871) and *R. omeimontis* STEJNEGER, 1924. *Rhacophorus gongshanensis* YANG & SU, 1984 should be added to this group on the basis of adult morphology. With these, *Rh. duboisi* nov. sp. shares the following characters: (1) green and brown dorsum colour; (2) brownish band including canthus rostralis, border of upper eyelid and tympanic fold; (3) webbing on hands half developed. The members of the *Rh. dennysii* group (sensu DUBOIS 1987 - *Rh. dennysii* BLANFORD, 1881, *Rh. feae* BOULENGER, 1893) also resemble the new species in colour pattern, but webbing on their hand is complete and they are of very large body size.

We had the possibility to study the type-material (syntypes and topotypes) of all three species of this group and compare it to *Rh. duboisi* nov. sp. (table 3). The new species can be distinguished from *Rh. du-*

gritei (syntypes MNHN 5563-5564, Moupin, China) and *Rh. gongshanensis* (topotypes CIB 828033, 0553, 0556, 0723, two adult males two adult females, Yunnan, China) by dorsal color pattern: in *Rh. dugritei*, males are uniformly green, and in *Rh. gongshanensis* both sexes only show a few brown patches on the dorsum and a distinct white line separating dorsal and ventral coloration on forelegs, hindlegs and vent. *Rhacophorus omeimontis* (CIB 561592, 638244-638252, 638254-638260, 740018, 740020, 15 adult males, 4 adult females, Emei Shan, China), which is most similar for color pattern, can be distinguished from *Rh. duboisi* by having a very granular dorsal skin. In this species the tarsal fold is distinct, the digital pad of the third finger is smaller than the tympanum. The dorsal pattern is composed of patches which show a distinct black outline, the flanks show white spots, the posterior surface of shanks is brown with white spots and the ventral side is uniformly light-gray.

D i a g n o s i s: (1) Medium sized *Rhacophorus* (SVL 61.5 - 65.7 mm); (2) brown band on canthus rostralis, upper eyelid and tympanic fold; (3) web on hand present, half developed; (4) digital pad of third finger larger than tympanum; (5) dorsum with small granules; (6) colour of dorsum green and brown, spots arranged in bands, patches without black outline; (7) belly gray-white with small, dense gray spots.

Holotype: MNHN 1999.5971, adult male (SVL 61.5 mm) (fig. 3).

Paratypes: MNHN 1999.5972, 1 adult male; MNHN 1999.5969-5970, 2 adult females.

Type locality: Fan Si Pan mountain range (22° 16' N, 103° 50' E; 1900 m), near Sa Pa, Lao Cai Province, Vietnam.

Collection data: The type-specimens were collected by one of the authors (STEVEN SWAN) (phase 3) between April 29 and May 4, 1998 in a pond on the edge of montane forest. They were in breeding condition. A series of this species that had to be deposited in the IEBR collection was not accessible for us to study in July 1999, and thus, cannot be included in the paratype series.

Description of holotype - adult male MNHN 1999.5971.