

INTRODUCED SPECIES

First Record of the Lesser Antillean Frog (*Eleutherodactylus johnstonei*) in Puerto Rico

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Frogs of the genus *Eleutherodactylus* (family Eleutherodactylidae) are small to medium-sized anurans that constitute one of the main components of the West Indian herpetofauna. Particularly species-rich in the Greater Antilles, the taxon has speciated there to occupy ecological niches that include leaf litter, underground burrows, caverns, streams, bromeliads and mosses, tree holes, and crevices, all the way from dry lowlands to montane rainforests.

Eleutherodactylus johnstonei is a medium-sized member of the genus (maximum SVL 35 mm) that originated in the Lesser Antilles. This species has spread to many areas where it is not native (see Powell et al. 2011), most likely by hitchhiking — in the form of both adults and eggs — in agricultural produce.

After an afternoon of heavy rain, at 13 h on 14 May 2011 on the grounds of the Gran Melia Hotel (Río Grande, Puerto Rico), I heard a single male *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* calling. It was perched about 75 cm above the ground on the upper-side of a leaf of an exotic garden bush (species unde-

termined) planted outside a window of bungalow #20, about 220 m from the resort's main building. The location (18°25'13.61"N, 65°47'31.39"W) is at sea level and approximately 60 m from the beach. The identity of the frog was confirmed from photographs (MPM Herp P755) by S. Blair Hedges.

This is the first time *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* has been reported from Puerto Rico (Powell et al. 2011). Other amphibians present on the grounds of the hotel were (in order of abundance): *Eleutherodactylus antillensis*, *E. coqui*, *Osteopilus septentrionalis* (exotic), *Rhinella marina* (exotic), and *E. cochranae*. With this record, the number of introduced amphibian species in Puerto Rico is seven. Within the West Indies this is the highest number of introduced amphibian species per island — despite the fact that Puerto Rico is the smallest of the Greater Antilles.

Literature Cited

Powell, R., R.W. Henderson, M.C. Farmer, M. Breuil, A.C. Echternacht, G. van Buurt, C.M. Romagosa, and G. Perry. 2011. Introduced amphibians and reptiles in the Greater Caribbean: Patterns and conservation implications, pp. 63–143. In: A. Hailey, B.S. Wilson, and J.A. Horrocks (eds.), *Conservation of Caribbean Island Herpetofaunas. Volume 1: Conservation Biology and the Wider Caribbean*. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands.



This male *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* represents the first confirmed record of the species on Puerto Rico.

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