



# New Item in the Diet of Blacksmith Treefrog (*Boana faber*) Tadpoles in an Urban Area of Southeastern Brazil

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The Blacksmith Treefrog, *Boana faber* (Wied-Neuwied 1821) (Fig. 1), a medium-sized hylid that is nocturnally active in arboreal habitats and is frequently found in anthropic environments (Eterovick et al. 2020), occurs in eastern and southern Brazil, southeastern Paraguay, and Misiones, Argentina (Frost 2024). Reproduction of *B. faber* generally occurs between December and March and the benthic tadpoles are black upon hatching and turn different shades of brown as they develop (Eterovick et al. 2020).

On 23 February 2024, we observed tadpoles at stages 22 and 36 (Gosner 1960) identified as *B. faber* based on morphological characteristics described in Eterovick et al. (2020) and Pezzuti et al. (2021) feeding on floating aquatic macrophytes (*Limnobium laevigatum* [Hydrocharitaceae] and *Lemna aequinoctialis* and *Spirodela* sp. [Araceae]) in a 30-liter aquarium in an urban area of Ritápolis, Minas Gerais, Brazil (-21.0234, -44.3199) (Fig. 2). *Boana faber* is common in urban areas and it used the aquarium opportunistically for spawning. The tadpoles also fed on

unidentified filamentous algae growing on the substrate in the aquarium. No other food was provided. The aquarium, which was not equipped with a pump, heater, or light, was placed 150 cm above the ground in a residential garden explicitly for observing aquatic macrophyte development.

Little is known about the diet of larval *Boana* spp., although Pollo et al. (2019) stated that tadpoles of *B. cordobae* fed primarily on microalgae in a fluoride-rich stream in Argentina. Generally, hylid tadpoles feed primarily on algae (e.g., Santos et al. 2016), although necrophagy has been recorded (e.g., Dias et al. 2021). To the best of our knowledge, however, this is the first report of aquatic macrophytes (angiosperms) in the diet of the larvae of any species of *Boana*.

## Literature Cited

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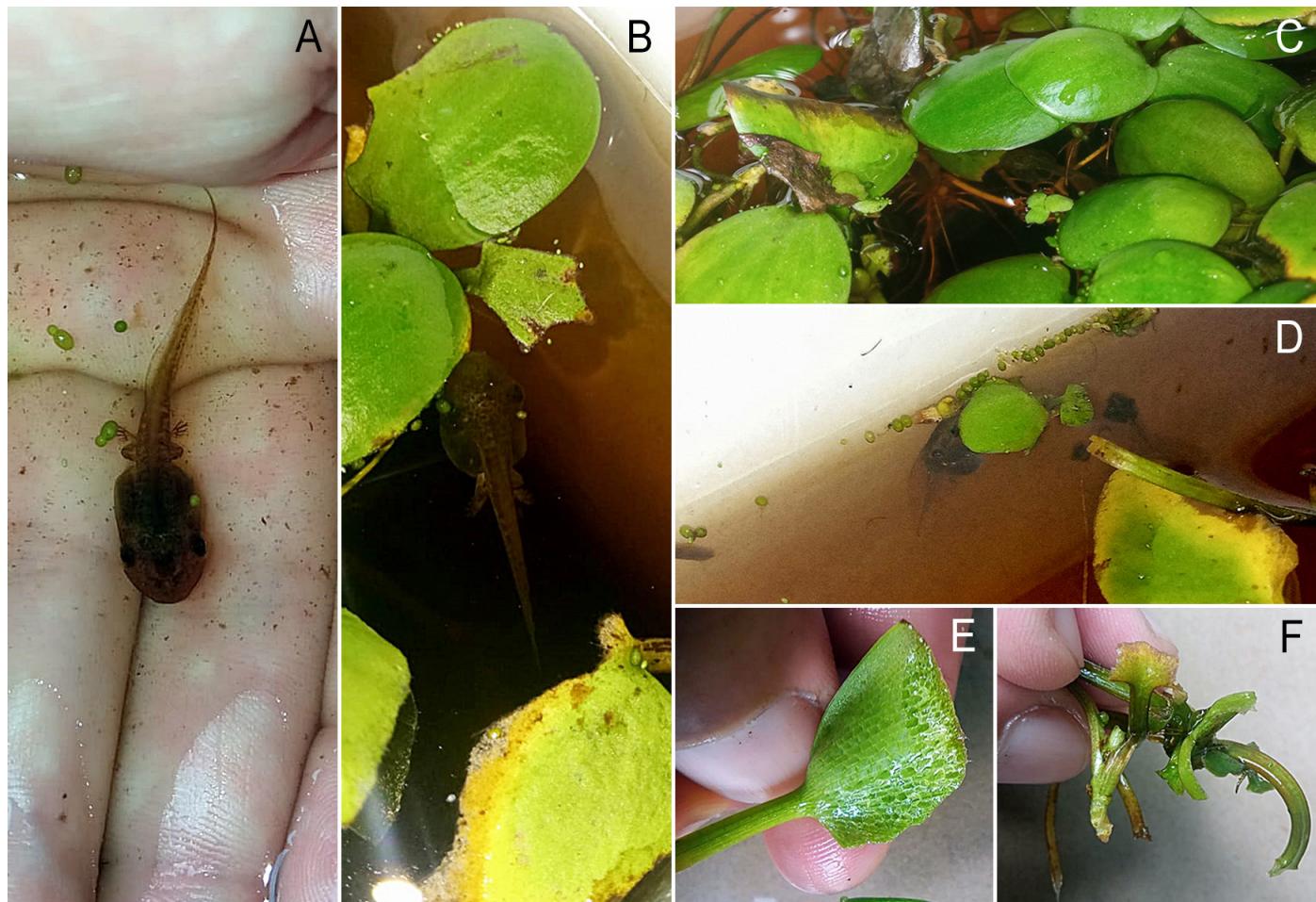
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**Figure 1.** An adult Blacksmith Treefrog (*Boana faber*) in an urban area of Ritápolis, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Photograph by G.C.S. Oliveira.



**Figure 2.** A Blacksmith Treefrog (*Boana faber*) tadpole (A); *B. faber* tadpoles feeding on aquatic macrophytes (*Limnobium laevigatum*) in an aquarium in an urban area in the municipality of Ritápolis, Minas Gerais, Brazil (B–D); detail of a *L. laevigatum* leaf (E); and petioles and shoots on which tadpoles had fed (F). Photographs by G.C.S. Oliveira.