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## DISCUSSION OF THE FAMILIES, GENERA, AND SPECIES REPRESENTED IN THE COLLECTION

### *Pipidae*

Two of the three genera of African aglossal frogs parallel each other in having certain species restricted to the forest and others to the open country. *Hymenochirus boettgeri*, *H. feae*, and *Xenopus tropicalis* are the forest forms, while *H. curtipes*, *Xenopus clivii*, *X. muelleri* and *Xenopus laevis* are the open country species. It is noteworthy that, while *X. clivii* is restricted to the northeastern faunal area, the other three of the second group are not characteristic of any one definite faunal province as is the case of so many species of reptiles.

The recently described *Pseudhymenochirus*, is known only from the type species secured near Conakry, French Guinea.

### *Hymenochirus* BOULENGER

The Congo Expedition secured a species of this genus which is very distinct from the two species formerly known. The three species now included in the genus are readily distinguishable by their different leg length and by the different extent of the webbing between the digits.

### *Hymenochirus curtipes*, new species Plate XIII; Text Figure 2

Three specimens from Zambé, Lower Congo, June 1915, A. M. N. H. No. 9453-9455.

Distribution. - While the species is known only from Zambé, it is assumed that its range embraces more or less of the Lower Congo.

Diagnostic Characters - Leg-length much shorter than in the other species of *Hymenochirus*; tibiotarsal articulation barely reaching the shoulder; tibia contained nearly three times in the head and body length. Fingers half webbed, toes completely webbed, the webs scarcely indented. Tubercles of the sides of the body not distinctly enlarged, only a little larger than those of the back.

Type. - A. M. N. H. No. 9453, adult ♂, from Zambé, June 1915.

Description of type specimen. - Head narrow, flat, without any indication of a canthus rostralis; snout subtruncate the nostrils terminal; eye directed nearly dorsally, its greatest diameter contained one and a third times into the distance between its anterior end and the nostril; interorbital space a little less than three times the greatest diameter of the eye; no tympanum; no upper eyelid. Fingers about half webbed, the web scarcely indented; one (of inner digit), one, two and two phalanges of the respective fingers free; toes webbed to the base of each of the terminal phalanges, the web slightly more indented than that of the fingers. Tibiotarsal articulation nearly reaching the shoulder; the tibia contained in the head and body length a trifle less than three times; a prominent inner metatarsal tubercle, without horny sheath. Skin coarsely and uniformly tubercular, the tubercles of the sides of the body and hinder surfaces of the thighs a trifle larger than those of the back.

Muddy brown above, indistinctly spotted with dark brown above, distinctly below.

Measurements	
Snout to Vent	24 mm
Width of Head	5.5 mm
Foreleg	9 "
Hind leg (vent to tip of longest toe)	24 "
Tibia	8 "

Relations. - I am not at all convinced that the Cameroon-Gaboon specimens of *H. boettgeri* which BOULENGER (1899, p. 122) has considered indistinguishable from the type as described are really identical with it. There is considerable discrepancy in leg-length and rugosity between them and the original description. Still our specimens of *H. curtipes* differ so greatly from both the original description of *H. boettgeri* and the Cameroon specimens available to me that they cannot be confused with either. I have examined three Cameroon specimens referred by BOULENGER to *H. boettgeri*, one (M. C. Z. 2468) thirty-three millimeters in length from the Ja River, another (M. C. Z. 2469) twenty-seven millimeters in length from Kribi, and the third (M. C. Z. 2462) twenty-five millimeters long, from north Cameroon. Whether or not these specimens are identical with *H. boettgeri* it is impossible to say without an examination of the type. They are, nevertheless, conspicuously different from *H. curtipes* in their much greater leg-length, enlarged lateral tubercles, broad heads and indented webbing of the digits. The tibia of these specimens is contained into their head and body length from two and one-fifth to two and one-third times. Their tibiotarsal articulation just reaches or nearly reaches the eye. TORNIER (1896, p. 163) states in his original description of *H. boettgeri* that it is the tarso-metatarsal joint which just reaches the eye. In our specimens of *H. curtipes* the tarso-metatarsal articulation extends at most only a little beyond the shoulder. It is apparent that, regardless of the status of the Cameroon specimens, *H. curtipes* is very different from *H. boettgeri*.

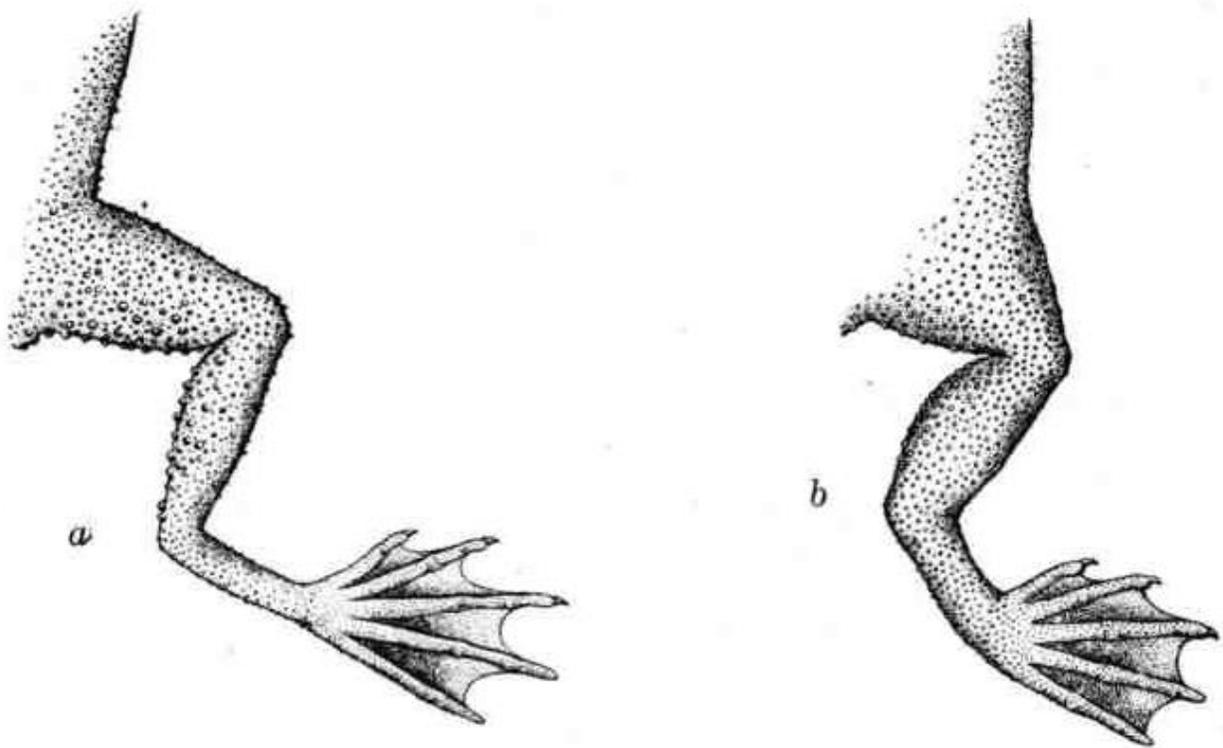


Fig. 2. (a) *Hymenochirus boettgeri*, (TORNIER) and (b) *Hymenochirus curtipes*, new species. Comparison of the right hind limbs, dorsal aspect.

BOULENGER (1906, p. 158) states that *H. feae* is very similar to *H. boettgeri*, "agreeing with it in every respect except that the fingers and toes are fully webbed to the tips." But, to judge from BOULENGER's figure (idem, Pl. I, fig. 1), it would seem that *H. feae* is also different from *H. boettgeri* and like *H. curtipes* in lacking the greatly enlarged tubercles of the sides of the body which, although not shown in TORNIER's figure of *H. boettgeri*, are very distinct in the Cameroon specimens that I have examined.

Variation. -The three specimens of *H. curtipes* in our series measure 28, 26, and 24 mm. from snout to vent. There is no variation in colour; and practically none in proportions.

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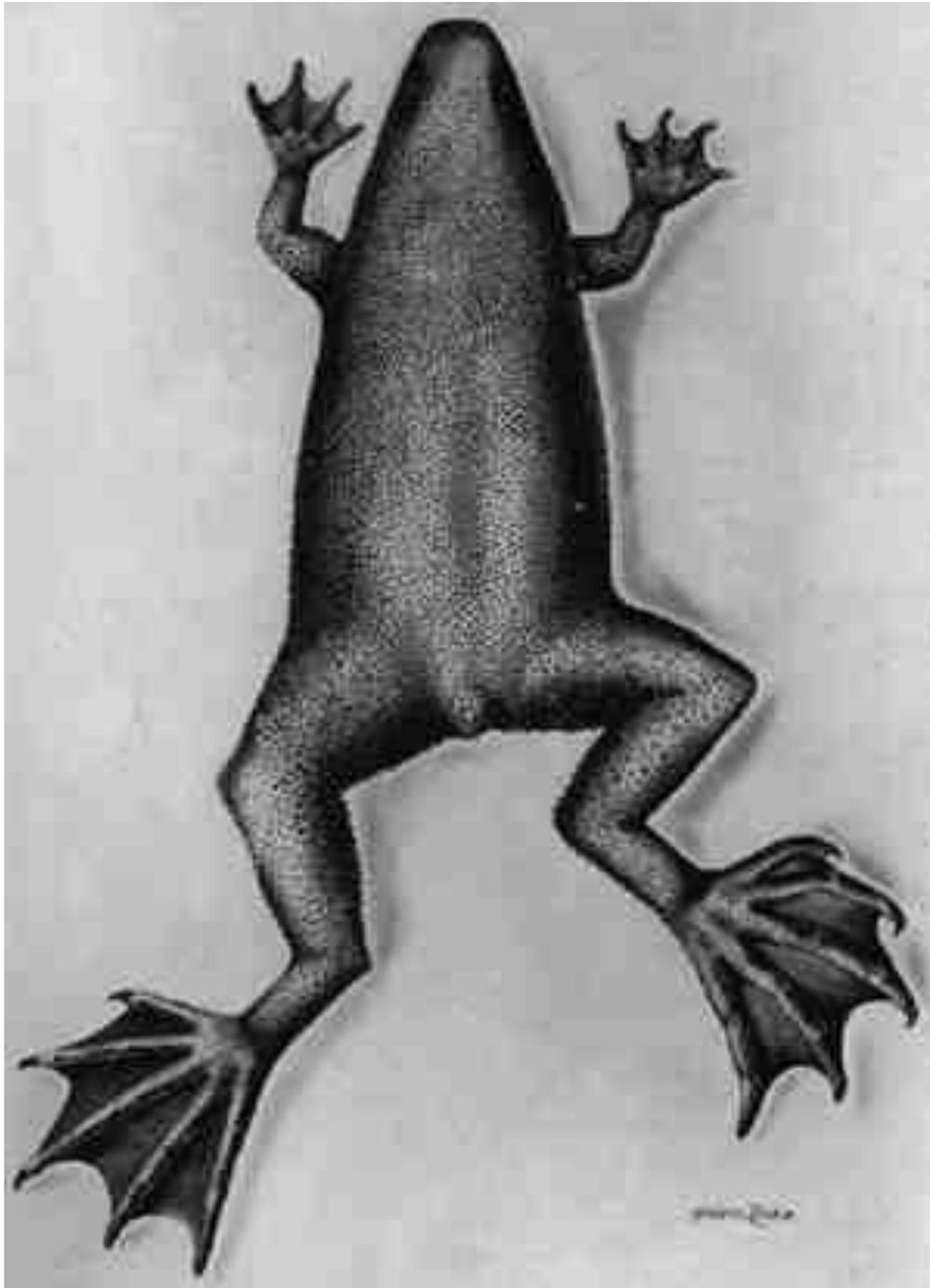


Plate XXIII

## INTRODUCTION

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The body of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the fifty-three species represented in the Congo collection. Lack of comparative material has necessitated a very conservative opinion on many of them, especially on the species of *Hyperolius*. The synonymy under each species is intended to include references to all the literature which has appeared since BOULENGER's 'Catalogue' (1882). The synonymy is therefore not complete but sufficient for distributional studies. The new *Hymenochirus* is remarkable in coming from region which was herpetologically well known. This, together with the fact that a number of forms recorded from the Congo basin are not represented in the collection, presents further evidence of the difficulties of most herpetological collecting, work in which the Expedition was so highly successful.

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A CHECK LIST OF THE AMPHIBIA OF AFRICA

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***Salientia***

LAURENTI, 1768, 'Syn. Rept.', p. 24

***Pipidae***

***Hymenochirus***

BOULENGER, 1896, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (6) XVIII, p. 420

Type: *boettgeri*

***Hymenochirus boettgeri*** (TORNIER)

*Xenopus boettgeri*, TORNIER 1896, 'Kriechtiere Deutsch-Ost-Afrikas,' p. 163, fig. L.

*Hymenochirus boettgeri*, BOULENGER, 1896, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (6) XVIII, p. 420; 7899, (7) IV, p. 122.

Type locality: "Wandesoma," Ituri Forest, Belgian Congo.

Range: Cameroon and Gaboon, eastward to the limits of the Ituri Forest.

***Hymenochirus curtipes*** NOBLE

*Hymenochirus curtipes* NOBLE, see above, p. 155. XXIII.

Type locality: Zambi, Lower Congo.

Range: Known only from the type locality.

***Hymenochirus feae*** BOULENGER

*Hymenochirus feae* BOULENGER, 1906 (for 1905), Ann. Mus. Stor. Njat. Genova, (3) II, p. 158, Pl. I, fig. 1.

Type locality: Fernand-Vaz, French Congo.

Range: Known only from the type locality.

***Pseudhymenochirus***

CHABANAUD, 1920, Bull. Et. Hist. et Scient. A.O.F., p. 494

Type: *merlini*

***Pseudhymenochirus merlini*** CHABANAUD

*Pseudhymenochirus merlini* CHABANAUD, 1920, Bull. Et. Hist. Et Scient. A.O.F., p. 494; 1921, op. cit., p. 448, Pl. I.

Type locality: Dixine (near Conakry) French Guinea.

Range: Known only from the type locality.

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