

## BUFO LEMUR, A RARE PORTO RICAN TOAD

CHAPMAN GRANT, Major, United States Army

*Bufo lemur* was known to the natives of Porto Rico as "sapo concho" because of its bony or shell-like head. At the time of Dr. Stejneger's visit, the name had been transferred to *Leptodactylus albilabris*. At present *Bufo marinus* bears the name for which it does not qualify. *Bufo lemur* seems to have always been scarce, or its hiding places are not yet understood.

Cope named the form *Peltaphryne lemur* in 1868. Peters called it *Peltaphryne gutturosus* in 1876 and Gundlach, *Bufo gutturosus* in 1881. Stejneger straightened things out in 1902 with *Bufo lemur*.

The only records that I can find of its capture are:

Dr. Stahl secured six specimens in forty years of collecting in the 18-'s. Stejneger captured five specimens near Arecibo in 1900. Schmidt took five specimens at Coamo Springs in 1919, thereby greatly enlarging the known range of the species. It had been known only from the north side of the Island. Dr. J. García Díaz secured one at Arecibo in 1925. Mrs. D. J. Haydon, of the University of Porto Rico secured two from Barceloneta in 1928. Danforth collected eight at Coamo Springs in 1929. I captured the present specimen a mile north of Coamo Springs in 1931. A total of only 28 known specimens of this species taken in sixty-three years.

Noticeable about this toad is its limber back bone. It can turn about so that in handling it, it feels more like a warty salamander than a toad. Its mouth is not terminal as in ordinary toads but underneath like a shark's. When captured, it was sooty black all over. Soon it turned to a black and white marbled symmetrical pattern, too complicated to try to describe. The hour glass pattern on the back mentioned by Stejneger is present. The eyes of this specimen are decidedly coppery instead of brassy as in the specimen that Stejneger describes.

Dropped into a tub of water it swims well on and below the surface. Kept in a bottle it ate two katydids, tiger beetle, *Anolis cristatellus* 4" long and cockroaches.

This toad is closely allied to *B. empusus* (Cope), of Cuba and *B. gutturosus* Latreille of Hispaniola, both of which are relatively common. *Bufo turpis* Barbour of Virgin Gorda was known only from the type specimen until Dr. Stuart Danforth of the University of Porto Rico at Mayagüez took eight specimens last year. He found them under the bark of dead mangrove trees.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IX

*Bufo lemur* front view and side view. This is probably the **only** picture ever taken of this species alive. Photos by Capt. F. V. Edgerton, U.S.A.

PLATE IX.

