

THE DISTRIBUTION OF *TOMOPTERNA*
KRUGERENSIS (ANURA: RANIDAE) IN THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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A new and cryptic species of *Tomopterna*, *T. krugerensis*, has recently been described from the Kruger National Park, Republic of South Africa, (Passmore and Carruthers 1975), where it appears to be confined to the Wambiya sandveld region in the north. The closely related and very similar *T. delalandei cryptototis* has not been recorded from this region.

On 1976.01.06 and 1976.01.16 the author encountered a large breeding aggregation of *T. krugerensis* in a temporary rain pool on the farm Mosdene, (Naboomspruit, Transvaal). The number of calling males was estimated at about 50 ($\pm 10\%$). The mating calls heard and recorded were indistinguishable from those previously recorded in the Kruger National Park. *T. delalandei cryptototis* was also present and calling at this locality, together with *T. krugerensis*, on both occasions.

T. krugerensis is morphologically very similar to *T. delalandei cryptototis* and the distinction of these two species is difficult in preserved material. The only reliable morphological differences are size, the extent of webbing on the hind feet and the presence of a doubled proximal subarticular tubercle on the first digit of the fore feet in *T. krugerensis* (Passmore *et al.* 1975). These differences are equally evident in the Naboomspruit material as they are in the material from the Kruger National Park.

The sympatric occurrence of these two species at this locality, accompanied by the maintenance of morphological and other differences, is a further clear indication of their distinctness at the species level.

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REFERENCE

- PASSMORE, N. I. and V. C. CARRUTHERS, 1975. A new species of *Tomopterna* (Anura: Ranidae) from the Kruger National Park, with notes on related species. *Koedoe* 18: 31-50.