

LIVING WORLD

Journal of the Trinidad and Tobago
Field Naturalists' Club

admin@tffnc.org

ISSN 1029-3299



Range Expansion of *Scarthyia vigilans* (Anura: Hylidae) in Trinidad, West Indies

Renoir J. Auguste and Mike G. Rutherford

Auguste, R. J., and Rutherford, M. G. 2015. Range Expansion of *Scarthyia vigilans* (Anura: Hylidae) in Trinidad, West Indies. *Living World, Journal of The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club*, 2015, 43-43.

NATURE NOTE

Range Expansion of *Scarthyla vigilans* (Anura: Hylidae) in Trinidad, West Indies

Scarthyla vigilans is a small frog in the family Hylidae (Solano 1971). It inhabits marshy areas as well as channels and ditches (Barrio-Amorós *et al.* 2006). Males have been known to call from relatively high perches on grasses or from on floating vegetation such as water hyacinths, whereas females typically perch on the lower parts of plants (Barrio-Amorós *et al.* 2006).

This species was previously only known from mainland South America and only relatively recently for the first time recorded in the southwestern peninsula of Trinidad (Smith *et al.* 2011). Based on our subsequent observations, we herein report a range expansion for the species on Trinidad.

Scarthyla vigilans were observed in Tucker Valley, Chaguaramas, in the northwest of Trinidad on 17 November, 2012 during the Tucker Valley Bioblitz 2012 event. R.A. and other members of the herpetology group saw and heard several specimens calling from grasses adjacent to streams in Tucker Valley between 1800 and 2100 h.

Scarthyla vigilans were also observed in Nariva Swamp in the east of Trinidad on 18 October, 2014 during the Nariva Swamp Bioblitz 2014 event. R.A. saw and heard several frogs calling from grasses on the side of a road in proximity to a water filled ditch in Kernaham between 1800 and 2100 h. *Scarthyla vigilans* were also observed in the Aripo Livestock Station (ALS), Wallerfield, in the northeast of Trinidad on 23 November, 2015. R.A. saw and heard several individuals calling from grasses next to water filled ditch at ALS between the hours of 0900 and 100h. It is possible, given the numbers seen, that the species has been present at these locales without prior detection for some time and it appears that populations are more widespread across Trinidad than originally thought.

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Fig. 1. *Scarthyla vigilans*. Photo: J. Murphy.

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Renoir J. Auguste¹ and Mike G. Rutherford²

1. Department of Life Sciences,
The University of the West Indies,
St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.
renguste@gmail.com

2. mike.rutherford@sta.uwi.edu