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SPECIES ON COVER



Hyloscirtus tigrinus is a species of the Hylidae family, of the *Hyloscirtus larinyopygion* group (Duellman and Hillis, 1990; Faivovich et al., 2005), easily distinguished from their congeners by having a prominent and fleshy calcar tubercle and a distinctive coloration pattern resembling a tiger (*Panthera tigris*), which usually consists of a yellow-green to green dorsum, with black traverse bars, whitish flanks and disks mostly black. Although most of the specimens exhibit this coloration pattern, in some individuals the dorsal black bars are replaced by reticulaciones (Montezuma and Mueses-Cisneros 2009). *Hyloscirtus tigrinus* was described by Mueses-Cisneros and Anganoy-Criollo (2008) based on four specimens collected in a locality from South of Colombia, Nariño department, at 3060 msnm; however, recently, Montezuma and Mueses-Cisneros (2009) extended its geographical distribution range to Laguna de la Magdalena, a lake amid the moor, located 103 km NE from the type locality, in limits between Cauca and Huila departments, Colombia, a place of much relevance since it is here where the Río Magdalena (the most important river of the country) is born. The species mostly inhabit patches of upper montane Andean forests next to small streams, although the specimen from La Magdalena was detected in the littoral zone of the lagoon. Recent explorations from South of Colombia demonstrate the presence of this species in four new localities; however, the populations are very scarce (1-4 specimen for locality) and some of these localities are patches of forests with deforestation and contamination with pesticides. Currently, *H. tigrinus* is the flag species of the Project "Frogs and Toads of Southwestern Colombia, Jewels of Nature that our Grandchildren Should Know", conducted by J.J. Mueses-Cisneros, addressed to work the conservation of about 50 species that require immediate protection actions. Text and photos by J.J. Mueses-Cisneros (© all rights reserved).

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