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# AHN

AFRICAN HERP NEWS



**Southern Rock Python**  
Predation by Carnivores



**Boomslang**  
Melanistic Coloration



**Montane Egg-eater**  
Diet and Distribution



**Mapacha Ridged Frog**  
Distribution

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## NEWSLETTER

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: *Chondrodactylus angulifer*  
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## PTYCHADENIDAE

*Ptychadena mapacha* Channing, 1993

### MAPACHA RIDGED FROG IN NAMIBIA

**P***tychadena mapacha*, described by Channing in 1993, is a medium-sized (maximum snout–vent length 31 mm) relatively short-legged, ptychadenid species with minute dark dorsal markings and an distinct unbroken ridge beginning at the upper lip and extending back to the upper arm (Channing 1993; Du Preez & Carruthers 2009). Its distribution is currently restricted to the type locality, Katima Mulilo in the Mapacha area in the eastern Caprivi Strip of northeastern Namibia, in the Kwando River basin. However, it is expected to occur in south-western Zambia, southeastern Angola, and northern Botswana (Channing 2001). Because it is so poorly known, *P. mapacha* is listed as Data Deficient (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2014). Examination of specimens assigned to *Ptychadena* sp. at the National Museum of Namibia, Windhoek (NMN, formerly SMWN) revealed three specimens



corresponding to *P. mapacha* from Omaramba Omatako, 3 km N of Vicota (18° 12' S; 20° 15' E) in the Rundu District of the Kavango-East Region. All individuals (NMN 26259, NMN 26260, NMN 26261, Fig. 1A) were collected 21 April 1998 by N.H.G. Jacobsen. The specimens exhibit the diagnostic unbroken ridge extending from the upper lip posteriorly the arm that distinguishes the species from the similar *Ptychadena schillukorum*. In addition, the several flat granules on the posterior flanks distinguish these specimens from the similar *Ptychadena mossambica* (Fig. 1B-C). Specimens NMN 26259 and NMN 26161 have a snout–vent length of 32 and 31 mm respectively, making the first the largest known individual of the species. This new record extends the species' range approximately 440 km to the west and represents the second vouchered locality for this species.

Photo for image reference provided by Johan Marais

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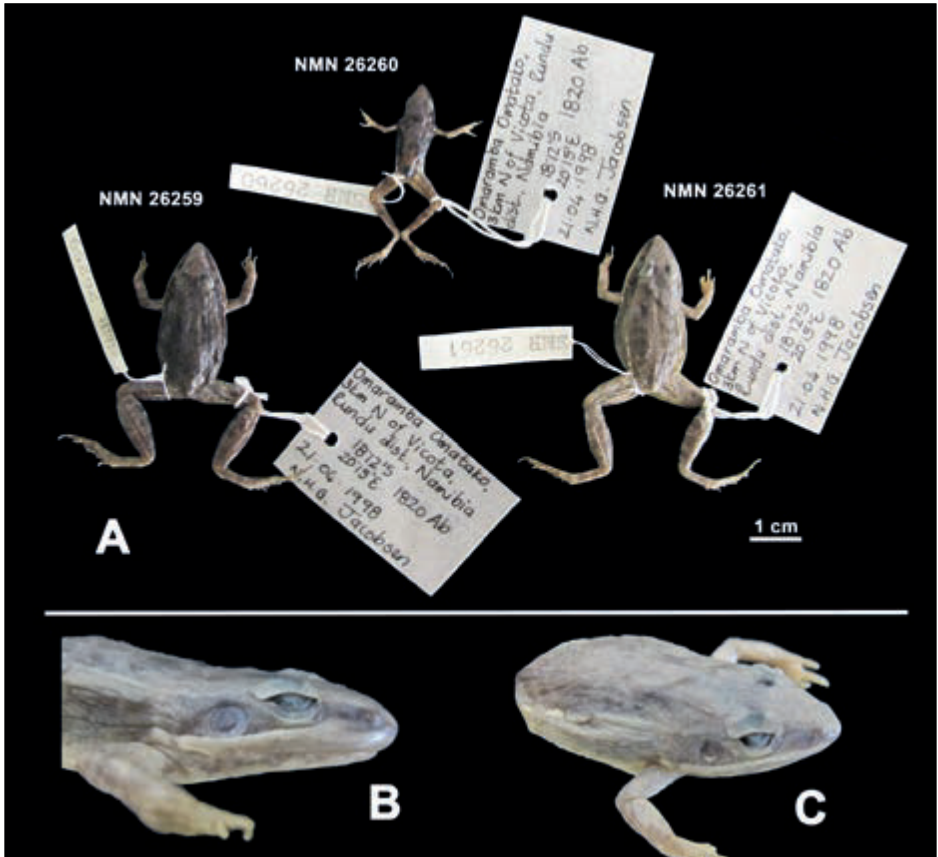


Figure 1. (A) Specimens of *Ptychadena mapacha* from Omaramba Omatako, 3 km N of Vicota, Rundu District, Kavango-East Region. Scale bar in cm. Magnification (B) of unbroken ridge extending from the upper lip, below the tympanum, posterior to the arm insertion and (C) the few flat granules on the posterior flanks, both diagnostic characters of this species.

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