

## Three new species of tiny frogs from the remarkable region of Papua New Guinea

September 20 2013

---



This image shows the news species *Oreophryne cameroni* from Keki Lodge, Adelbert Mountain Range. Credit: Fred Kraus

Three new species of tiny frogs from Papua New Guinea are described in the latest issue of *Zookeys*. Dr Fred Kraus, University of Michigan, who in 2011 in *Zookeys* described the world's smallest frogs *Paedophryne dekot* and *Paedophryne verrucosa*, now adds another 3 species from the genus *Oreophryne* to the remarkable diversity of this

region.

The three new species *Oreophryne cameroni*, *Oreophryne parkoporum* and *Oreophryne gagneorum* are all rather minute, with total body lengths of around 20 mm. These tiny [frogs](#), however are still substantially larger than the species that claimed the smallest frog prize in 2011.

*Paedophryne dekot* and *Paedophryne verrucosa* are only half of the length of the three new additions to the frog diversity of Papua New Guinea, with an astonishingly small body size ranging between 8-9 mm.

The [subfamily](#) to which the new species belong is largely restricted to New Guinea and its satellite islands. Of the constituent genera, *Oreophryne* is presently one of the largest within the Papuan Region.



This is the new species *Oreophryne gagneorum* from Rossel Island, 720 m elevation. Credit: Fred Kraus



This image shows one of the new species *Oreophryne parkoporum* from near summit of Mt. Sapau. Credit: Fred Kraus

"Although the description of the new species treated herein now brings to seven the number of *Oreophryne* species reported from the north-coast region of New Guinea, the presence from these areas of additional specimens of uncertain identity suggests that additional species likely await description," explains Dr Kraus about the diversity of the [genus](#) within the region. "I have at least a dozen more new *Oreophryne* species remaining to be described from this region, and large portions of this terrane system remain unsurveyed."

**More information:** Kraus F (2013) Three new species of *Oreophryne* (Anura, Microhylidae) from Papua New Guinea. *ZooKeys* 333: 75. [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.333.5795](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.333.5795)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: Three new species of tiny frogs from the remarkable region of Papua New Guinea (2013, September 20) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-09-species-tiny-frogs-remarkable-region.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.