

ELACHISTOCLEIS* cf. *OVALIS (Common Oval Frog). **DEATH FEIGNING.** Numerous amphibian defense strategies have been described, including death feigning, or thanatosis, which is quite widespread in anurans. This strategy is utilized by members of several families including Bufonidae (Zamprognio et al. 1998. *Herpetol. Rev.* 29:96–97); Hylidae (Azevedo-Ramos 1995. *Rev. Bras. Bio.* 55[1]:45–47); Leptodactylidae (Hartmann et al. 2003. *Herpetol. Rev.* 34:50), and Ranidae (Gramapurohit et al. 2001. *Herpetol. Rev.* 32:103), although its function is still not well understood (Azevedo-Ramos, *op. cit.*). Observations reported herein occurred during January 2003 at Floresta Estadual “Edmundo Navarro de Andrade” (22°25’S; 47°33’W, 650 m elev.), municipality of Rio Claro, São Paulo State, Brazil. An adult male *Elachistocleis* cf. *ovalis* (25 mm SVL) was captured while calling and when manipulated for photographs, it turned its belly, arms, and legs up, with the arms outstretched and the legs close to the body (Fig. 1). The animal remained motionless for nearly 3 minutes. After resuming its normal position, the animal was handled again and it repeated the behavior twice. Rödel and Braun (1999. *Biotropica* 31[1]:178–183) described a similar behavior in *Kassina fusca*, although it was not identified as thanatosis. Thus this is the first observation of thanatosis in a microhylid, and the third defensive behavior described for the genus (Kokubum and Menin 2002. *Herpetol. Rev.* 33:198; Kwet and Solé 2002. *Herpetol. Rev.* 33:46). The effectiveness of death feigning needs to be tested as there are few data available that support the idea that such behavior could lead to avoidance by predators (Rödel and Braun 1999, *op. cit.*).



FIG. 1. Adult male *Elachistocleis* cf. *ovalis* feigning death after been handled.

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