

**BUFO cf. CRUCIFER** (Sapo Cururu). **DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.** Bufonids have characteristic paratoid glands on their dorsum that may help prevent predation (Stebbins and Cohen 1995. *A Natural History of Amphibians*. Princeton Univ. Press. 316 pp.). Field observations reported herein were carried out at the Ecological Station of Itirapina (ESI), municipality of Itirapina and Brotas, São Paulo State, southeastern Brazil. On 25 Nov 2002 an adult male *Bufo* cf. *crucifer* was found crossing a road at the ESI. At first, the individual tried to escape by making short and unidirectional hops for ca. 100 m. Apparently tired, it became immobile until my hand touched its back. The animal immediately tilted its body sideways in the direction that I had touched. When I touched its head, the animal flexed the head downward (Fig. 1A); when I touched its back, the anuran assumed a roughly erect posture, with its arms strongly stretched (Fig. 1B); when I touched one of the flanks, it tilted laterally toward the same side. This behavior may be common in species of the genus *Bufo* (Hanson and Vial 1956. *Herpetologica* 12:141–149; Duellman and Trueb 1994. *Biology of Amphibians*. McGraw-Hill Publ. Co., 670 pp.), although it has never been described for this species complex. This postural behavior 1) increases the likelihood that a predator might ingest toxic skin secretions; and 2) presents a large body surface that would make head-first ingestion (for example, by snakes) more difficult.

I thank Anne D'Heursel for comments on previous versions of the manuscript, Denise Zancheta for allowing access to Ecologi-

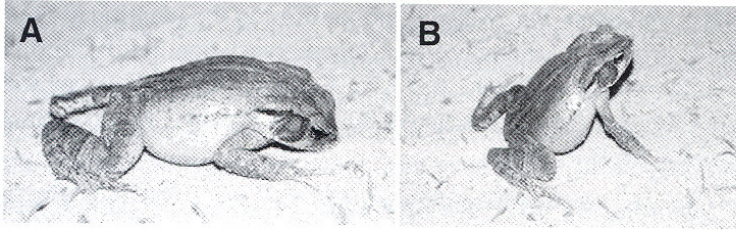


FIG. 1. Adult male *Bufo* cf. *crucifer* tilting toward the touched body area: A) animal touched on the head; B) animal touched on its back.

cal Station of Itirapina, IBAMA and Instituto Florestal for the authorizations provided, and CNPq for the scholarship (proc. no. 130417/2003-3).

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