

# Frogs of WAU CREEK

## Rokrok bilong Hanwara Wau



**Copiula derongo** (Zweifel, 2000)  
Microhylidae  
Sea level to 1500 m. Terrestrial and semi aquatic habitats. Call consists of short, harsh notes repeated ca. every 0.5 s, sometimes for long sequences. Direct developer. SVL 50 mm.



**Copiula guttata** (Zweifel, 2000)  
Microhylidae  
Sea level to 500 m. Inhabits terrestrial regions of small streams. Calls from under leaf litter in a long series of very rapid, harsh machinegun-like notes, sometimes for several minutes. Direct developer. SVL 43 mm.



**Austrochaperina palmipes** (Zweifel, 1956)  
Microhylidae  
Sea level to 1700 m. Largely aquatic, occupying small streams. Call unknown, lacks a vocal sac. Direct developer, eggs laid under leaf litter. SVL 50 mm.



**Callulops doriae** Boulenger, 1888  
Microhylidae  
Sea level to 1800 m. Terrestrial, uses burrows in the ground. Call is a series of 3-4 deep, guttural barks which are emitted from the crux of buttress roots. Direct developer. SVL 100 mm.



**Copiula sp. 1** Microhylidae  
Undescribed species. Terrestrial, calls from under leaf litter on the rainforest floor. Call consists of 4-5 rapid, chirp-like pulses that resemble a chuckle, repeated every 2-2.5 s for long sequences. Direct developer. SVL 30 mm.



**Hylophorbus rufescens** Macleay, 1878 Microhylidae  
Sea level to 1500 m, possibly higher. Primarily terrestrial, occupying the rainforest floor. Call consists of 7-9 soft honking notes repeated every 8-12 s for long sequences. Eggs laid in depressions below the leaf litter. Direct developer. SVL 47 mm.



**Oreophryne pseudunicolor** Günther & Richards, 2016  
Microhylidae  
Sea level to 900 m. Highly arboreal, occupying elevated perches up to 30 m above the ground. Calls from leaves, within hollow vines and small holes in branches and tree trunks high in the canopy. Call consists of a series of 5-15, slowly repeated, high-pitched peeping notes. Direct developer. SVL 30 mm.



**Oreophryne oviprotector** Günther, Richards, Bickford, & Johnston, 2012 Microhylidae  
Sea level to 1000 m. Arboreal. Males call from ~2.5 m above ground. Call a series of ~25 extremely rapid notes producing a pronounced rattle. Sometimes males call in a remarkable 'chain chorus' that results in a wave of calls that sweep through the forest. Eggs are laid on the underside of leaves and guarded by males. Direct developer. SVL 27 mm.



**Sphenophryne cornuta** Peters & Doria, 1878  
Microhylidae  
Sea level to 1500 m. Semi-arboreal, frequently encountered on vegetation or logs within a few metres of the ground, where males call from perches. Eyelid with conspicuous spike. Call is a harsh purr, lasting for ~4 s. Direct developer, with parental care of juvenile frogs. SVL 42 mm.



**Xenorhina sp. 1**  
Microhylidae  
Extent of distribution unknown. Fossorial, nests in burrows under leaf litter and logs. The call consists of a series of slow, crescendoing, piping notes that increase in pitch and intensity, reaching what can only be described as a point of climax. Call lasts up to one minute. Direct developer. SVL 33 mm.



**Mantophryne lateralis** Boulenger, 1897  
Microhylidae  
Sea level to 1200 m. Terrestrial, inhabiting lowland and premontane forests. Males call from the ground. Call consists of a long series of rough, barking notes up to 30 s duration. Direct developer. SVL 55 mm.



**Choerophryne crucifer** Günther & Richards, 2017  
Microhylidae  
Sea level to 1000 m. Arboreal, occupying lowland and foothill forest in south-central PNG. Males call from the upper surfaces of leaves, 2-10 m above the forest floor. Call consists of 5-22 rapidly repeated, high-pitched 'tinks'. Direct developer. SVL 18 mm.



**Litoria auae** Menzies and Tyler, 2004  
Pelodyadidae  
Sea level to 1100 m. Arboreal, commonly observed after rain sitting on leaves in lowland forest. Call consists of a single moaning note up to 2 s duration. Breeds in swamps. Aquatic development. SVL 40 mm.



**Litoria sp. aff. L. genimaculata** (Horst 1883)  
Pelodyadidae  
Extent of distribution unknown. Arboreal, often found low on vegetation near streams where it is active after rain. Call a series of soft ticking notes. Likely to have aquatic development. SVL 42 mm.



**Litoria prora** (Menzies, 1969)  
Pelodyadidae  
Sea level to 1200 m. Arboreal, often found in disturbed areas. Snout of both sexes projected into a proboscis which ranges from flaccid to erect. Call consists of a short series of 2-7 bleating notes. Eggs attached to vegetation overhanging water. Aquatic development after the tadpoles drop from the low canopy into pools below. SVL 42 mm.



**Lechriodius melanopyga** (Doria, 1875)  
Limnodynastidae  
Sea level to 1100 m. Terrestrial, occupying rainforest, woodland and seasonally dry forest. Commonly observed on the forest floor where it blends in with leaves and ducks low to the ground when disturbed. Call consists of a series of 6-8 notes resembling a loud snort. Constructs foam nests in ephemeral water bodies, and has aquatic development. SVL 60 mm.



**Papurana daemeli** (Steindachner, 1868)  
Ranidae  
Sea level to 1000 m. Largely terrestrial, occupying low lying logs and vegetation around streams and rivers. The call is complex, consisting of various sounds including a 3-4 note laugh-like quack, a soft, grating rattle and a bird-like chirp. Aquatic development. SVL 80 mm.



**Papurana arfaki** (Meyer, 1875)  
Ranidae  
Sea level to 1500 m. A large, terrestrial to semi-aquatic species, inhabiting riverbanks and sometimes nearby forest. The call has been described as a soft, squeaky note. Aquatic development. SVL 160 mm.

Wau Creek is 1600 ha of rainforest and associated streams and sandbanks used by the pig-nosed turtle for nesting. It is set aside from logging in order to protect these nesting grounds and the astonishing biodiversity of the region more generally.

Accommodation has been constructed in support of visiting scientists.

Frank John, of the Rupahai Clan, Rumu Language Group, whose vision it was to establish the Wau Creek Protected Area, Kikori lowlands, Gulf Province.



Piku Project  
Kikori River, Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea  
Poster prepared by Deb Bower, Simon Clulow, Steve Richards, Yolarnie Amepou and Arthur Georges.



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