

**Effects of traffic noise on calling activity of  
*Aplastodiscus leucopygius* (Anura, Hylidae)**

BEATRIZ AZEVEDO CEZILA, RAONI REBOUÇAS, CYBELE SABINO LISBOA

**This article has been accepted for publication and undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the Version of Record.**

**Please cite this article as:**

Azevedo Cezila, B-, Rebouças, R., Sabino Lisboa, C. (2020): Effects of traffic noise on calling activity of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* (Anura, Hylidae). Acta Herpetol. **19**. doi: 10.36253/a\_h-15334.

1 **Effects of traffic noise on calling activity of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* (Anura,**  
2 **Hylidae)**

3  
4 BEATRIZ AZEVEDO CEZILA<sup>1</sup>, RAONI REBOUÇAS<sup>2,3,4,\*</sup>, CYBELE SABINO LISBOA<sup>5</sup>

5  
6 <sup>1</sup>*Fundação Parque Zoológico de São Paulo, Avenida Miguel Stefano, 4241, São Paulo*  
7 *- SP, Brazil.*

8 <sup>2</sup>*Laboratório de História Natural de Anfíbios Brasileiros - LaHNAB,*  
9 *Departamento de Biologia Animal, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Estadual de*  
10 *Campinas. Cidade Universitária Zeferino Vaz, Campinas - SP, Brazil.*

11 <sup>3</sup>*Laboratório de Ecologia Evolutiva de Anfíbios, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto*  
12 *de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Minas*  
13 *Gerais, 36036-900, Brazil.*

14 <sup>4</sup>*Laboratório de Estudos Cromossômicos - LabEsC, Departamento de Biologia*  
15 *Estrutural e Funcional, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Estadual de Campinas.*  
16 *Cidade Universitária Zeferino Vaz, Campinas - SP, Brazil.*

17 <sup>5</sup>*Zoológico de São Paulo - Reserva Paulista, Avenida Miguel Stefano, 4241, São Paulo*  
18 *- SP, Brazil.*

19 \*corresponding author. Email: [raonisreboucas@gmail.com](mailto:raonisreboucas@gmail.com)

20  
21 *Submitted on: 2023, 8<sup>th</sup> November; revised on: 2024, 13<sup>th</sup> January; accepted on: 2024,*  
22 *18<sup>th</sup> January.*

23 *Editor: Ilaria Bernabò*

24  
25 **Running title:** Effects of traffic noise on calling activity

26 **Abstract.** Advertisement calls are the main communication form of anurans, and other  
27 individuals can use it to evaluate several aspects of the calling individual. In this context,  
28 environmental disturbances, such as traffic noise, can potentially affect this recognition.  
29 Therefore, this study aims to evaluate the response of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* to traffic noise  
30 in a fragment of Atlantic Forest within the city of São Paulo. The experimentation consisted of  
31 recording the calling individual previously, during and after an exposure to urban noise. After  
32 that, individuals were measured to evaluate the Scaled Mass Index (SMI), and individual and  
33 environmental temperatures were taken. Also, considering that individuals of this species  
34 present harmonic shifting, we tried to evaluate which factors (individual, acoustic, or  
35 environmental) are associated with this phenomenon. We observed that the individuals showed  
36 an increase in call activity after exposure to traffic noise, but none of the evaluated aspects here  
37 could explain the harmonic shifting in their calls. Considering that this increasing on call  
38 activity also means an increasing of individual's spent of energy, traffic noise is potentially  
39 harmful to the communication of *A. leucopygius* and, consequently, to its permanence in the  
40 site.

41 **Keywords.** Amphibian, Hylinae, anthropogenic noise, advertisement call, Atlantic Forest.

## 42 INTRODUCTION

43 Males of anurans use advertisement calls to attract females and segregate territories  
44 (Toledo et al., 2015). While these calls are emitted, other individuals use hearing to  
45 evaluate several aspects of the calling individual through call characteristics. These  
46 characteristics can be divided into two groups: spectral, such as dominant frequency,  
47 frequency bandwidth, and harmonics, and temporal, such as call rate, call duration, and  
48 interval between calls (Köhler et al., 2017). Spectral variables are less sensitive to  
49 environmental characteristics, such as temperature and precipitation, and are more related

50 to intrinsic aspects of calling individual (Tonini et al., 2020; Maria et al., 2023), unlike  
51 temporal variables, which can be influenced by several aspects of environment  
52 surrounding the calling individual (Lingnau and Bastos, 2007; Both and Grant, 2012;  
53 Caorsi et al., 2017).

54 Since most anuran communication is performed through sound, some sound-  
55 related aspects must influence this process. One of them is environmental noise, which  
56 can modify the call of individuals or even impair communication since it interferes with  
57 the auditory information transmitted to the receiver (Feng and Schul, 2007). Among these  
58 environmental noises, it is possible to distinguish two groups: natural noises, which are a  
59 consequence of the natural environment where each individual is inserted, such as rivers  
60 or wind (Lingnau and Bastos, 2007), and anthropogenic noises, which are human-  
61 produced and can promote an impact on natural populations. Among the effects of  
62 anthropogenic noises, such as traffic noise, it is possible to observe an increase in  
63 recognition time of males by females in the reproductive display (Bee and Swanson,  
64 2007), decreased activity, which reduces the reproductive success (Kaiser et al., 2011),  
65 and the increase of the amplitude of call, which potentially results in waste of energy that  
66 could be used for reproduction (Gerhardt and Klump, 1988; Lima et al., 2022).

67 One of the characteristics of calls on several species is the presence of harmonics.  
68 They consist of frequencies that are separated in bands multiple of the lowest resulting  
69 from periodic patterns of oscillation (Köhler et al., 2017). Several anuran species present  
70 their calls consisting of observable harmonics, such as *Boana albomarginata* (Giasson  
71 and Haddad, 2006; Rebouças et al., 2020; Rebouças, 2021), *Eleutherodactylus iberia*  
72 (Estrada and Hedges, 1996) and those of *Aplastodiscus* genus (Zina and Haddad,  
73 2006a,b). In this way, it was already observed that some species present the dominant  
74 frequency of their calls shifting between harmonics, such as *Boana albomarginata*

75 (Rebouças et al., 2020) and *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* (Zina and Haddad, 2006b), but the  
76 possible causes of this phenomenon remain understudied.

77         Although anthropogenic noise can have harmful effects on anuran populations, its  
78 specific effects are highly variable (Zaffaroni-Caorsi et al., 2023). Some species modify  
79 their call activity, increasing the call rate and duration in noisy environments (Lima et al.,  
80 2022), while others present no effect on call activity (Cunnington and Fahrig, 2010), or  
81 even some species are reported to shift their call frequency (Parris et al., 2009). Thus,  
82 evaluating anthropogenic noise effects on anuran calling activity is necessary to predict  
83 consequences of communication disturbance in population or species level. In this study,  
84 we aimed to experimentally assess the impact of anthropogenic noise on the call activity  
85 of an isolated population of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* in an urban forest fragment within  
86 the municipality of São Paulo, Brazil. Considering that this species commonly occurs in  
87 habitats far from anthropogenic noise sources, we evaluated if this noise could represent  
88 a factor that could impair this occupancy. Also, we evaluated which factors are able to  
89 predict the shifting of dominant frequency in the harmonics of calls. Here, we tested the  
90 hypothesis that individuals modify their calling activity structure as a consequence of  
91 anthropogenic noise. Specifically, we evaluated if the magnitude of this modification is  
92 related to (i) intrinsic aspects of individual calling, such as body condition, or (ii)  
93 temperature of the environment where each individual is inserted. Also, we evaluated if  
94 (iii) harmonic shifting is more related to extrinsic than intrinsic aspects, as proposed by  
95 Zina and Haddad (2006b).

96

97

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

98

*Sampling site and species*

99 Individuals of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* were captured in the Parque Estadual das Fontes  
100 do Ipiranga (PEFI), an urban Atlantic Forest fragment in the municipality of São Paulo,  
101 Brazil. The specific collecting site was between two boulevards, Avenida do Cursino and  
102 Avenida Miguel Stefano (23°38'21.55"S, 46°37'7.25"W), at a distance of 514 m and 891  
103 m, respectively. We selected this specific place to minimise the influence of other  
104 anthropogenic noise in our experiment (Fig. 1).

105 *A. leucopygius* is a species of the Hylidae family, with occurrence in the Atlantic  
106 Forest in the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil (Frost, 2023). It breeds in  
107 small streams or ponds, calls in marginal vegetation above the water body, and lays eggs  
108 in subterranean nests constructed by males (Zina and Haddad, 2006a). Males of this  
109 species present three call types: territorial, multi-note call, and advertisement call, which  
110 is the most common (Haddad and Sawaya, 2000; Zina and Haddad, 2006b).  
111 Advertisement calls are described as composed by four visible harmonics, with the  
112 dominant frequency in the first or third harmonic.

113

#### 114 *Experiment*

115 We conducted this study from November 2020 to April 2021, between 19:00 and  
116 22:30, in the natural calling site of individuals. Our experiment consisted of recording the  
117 call of 20 males of *A. leucopygius* during three uninterrupted minutes while they were  
118 exposed to three consecutive trials of one minute each: (i) pre-playback, when each  
119 individual was recorded with no influence of noise (control trial); (ii) playback, when  
120 each individual was recorded during the emission of traffic noise by a speaker; and (iii)  
121 post-playback, when each individual was recorded after speaker turned off. Thus, each  
122 individual was exposed sequentially to a pre-playback, playback and pos playback trial.  
123 Both male's calls and traffic noise recordings were made with a YOGA 9600

124 unidirectional microphone and a Tascam DR-40 digital recorder. The traffic noise sound  
125 for the playback trial was recorded in the Avenida Miguel Stefano during the rush hour,  
126 for one minute. In all playback trials, individuals were exposed to the same traffic  
127 recording (Supplementary Materials, Fig. S1). During the recording of calls, the  
128 microphone was placed at a distance of 1 m from the focused individual, and during the  
129 playback trial, the speaker was placed at the same distance in a parallel position to the  
130 microphone, in a position of  $\sim 45^\circ$  of the individual, to reduce the interference of sound  
131 emission into the recording (Fig. 2). The recordings were made at a sampling rate of 44.1  
132 kHz and with 16 bits of resolution. For the playback trial, we used a JBL Extreme speaker  
133 because of its relatively good frequency response (Fig. S2) and Bluetooth connection,  
134 which allowed us to perform the experiment in the natural environment of individuals.  
135 The noise was emitted through its connection to a cell phone. We kept the traffic noise  
136 emission as it was recorded, which implies some variation of levels, which ranged from  
137 -55 until -85.4 dBFS (scale C), measured with a digital decibel meter Instrutherm DEC-  
138 500 during all recording periods. Thus, we used a decibel meter to calibrate the sound  
139 pressure of the speaker to the same levels at 1 m distance (Fig. 3). Although inserted  
140 between two avenues, the noise generated by them does not reach the collecting site (see  
141 Lima et al., 2022). We avoided performing the experiments on rainy or windy days to  
142 reduce the further influence of other noises that were not the playback, and to record  
143 individuals close to each other to ensure that individuals would be exposed to only the  
144 specified time of noise.

145         After the experiment, we captured the individuals and measured their snout-vent  
146 length (SVL) with a digital calliper (to the nearest 0.01 mm), and their weight with a  
147 digital scale (to the nearest 0.1 g). These measurements were used to calculate the Scaled  
148 Mass Index (SMI) of individuals (Peig and Green, 2009). This is a measurement based

149 on the population parameters used as an indicator of energy reserves of an animal (Peig  
150 and Green, 2009). At the collecting site, we evaluated the air temperature with a mercury  
151 thermometer (to the nearest 0.1 °C) and the body temperature of the focal individual, with  
152 an infrared thermometer (to the nearest 0.1 °C). To avoid performing the experiment twice  
153 with the same individual and consequently avoiding pseudo replications, each individual  
154 was marked with Visible Implant Elastomer, applied subcutaneously in the ventral part  
155 of the thigh (Nauwelaerts et al., 2000), and recordings of recaptured individuals were  
156 discarded.

157

### 158 *Call Analysis*

159 We analysed all calls in Raven Pro 1.6 (K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation  
160 Bioacoustics, 2019) with the following settings: Hann window type with size of 512  
161 samples, 3 dB filter bandwidth of 2.7 kHz, time grip with an overlap of 50 %, hop size of  
162 256 samples, DFT size of 512 samples and spectral resolution of 1.88 kHz. Spectrograms  
163 were visualised with contrast of 75 % and bright of 60 %. Recordings in all trials were  
164 deposited according to previous recommendations (Dena et al., 2018, 2020) in Fonoteca  
165 Neotropical Jaques Veilliard (FNJV 58961 - 59020).

166 We used four spectral and three temporal variables in call analysis. As spectral,  
167 we used the dominant frequency through the function 'peak frequency'; minimum and  
168 maximum frequency, obtained through the function 'frequency at 5%' and 'frequency at  
169 95 %', respectively; and the bandwidth, which was the difference between the minimum  
170 and maximum frequencies. We used this latter function to avoid the inclusion of  
171 frequency measurements that were not related to individual calls (see Köhler et al., 2017).  
172 As temporal variables, we used the interval between calls, the number of calls in the  
173 recorded minute, and the duration of the call.



174

175 *Statistical Analyses*

176 To verify multicollinearity between variables in all models, we performed an initial model  
177 and used the variation inflation factor (VIF) through the “vif” function of the “car”  
178 package (Fox and Weisberg, 2019). We checked the performance of each model with the  
179 package “performance” (Lüdtke et al., 2020) (Fig. S3-S9). We considered an indicator  
180 of multicollinearity when the variables reached a VIF higher than 10 (Quinn and Keough,  
181 2002). We used a Generalised Linear Mixed Models analysis (GLMM) to evaluate if the  
182 trial (pre-playback, playback, and post-playback) influenced each of the measured  
183 variables of calls. We excluded the minimum frequency and frequency bandwidth of  
184 analysis during the playback trial since traffic noise overlapped these measurements.  
185 Considering that we have several measurements of the same individual in each trial, we  
186 used “individual” as a random factor and Gaussian family with identity link, for analysis  
187 with dominant, minimum, and maximum frequencies, frequency bandwidth, call duration  
188 and the interval between calls as response variables. To evaluate the influence of trial on  
189 the number of calls, we used a GLMM with a Poisson family and logit link. Additionally,  
190 we ran a GLM, with Gaussian distribution and “identity” link, using the residuals of those  
191 models, which showed the influence of trial on a specific call variable as a response, and  
192 SMI, individual temperature and air temperature as predictors to evaluate which factor  
193 influenced in the response of individuals to traffic noise. Also, to evaluate which factor  
194 is better predicting the harmonic shifting in calls (Zina and Haddad, 2006b), we also used  
195 a GLMM with harmonic of dominant frequency (coded as 0 for the first harmonic and 1  
196 for the third) as the response variable and, as the predictor, the trial (only used pre- and  
197 post-playback trials, since playback could give a false estimative of first harmonic due to  
198 experimental noise), temporal variables (call duration, interval between calls), minimum

199 and maximum frequencies, individual variables (SMI and body temperature), and habitat  
200 variables (air temperature and number of surrounding individuals calling). We used a  
201 binomial distribution with logit link and individual as random factor.

202 To determine the effect of each factor on the response variable, we used the  
203 analysis of variance with the type II Wald chi-square test through the “Anova” function  
204 of the “car” package (Fox and Weisberg, 2019). All analyses were performed in R 4.2.1  
205 (R Core Team, 2022) with a confidence interval of 95 %, parameters of all models are  
206 available in supplementary material, and information in tables were provided according  
207 the best practices to allow transparency and reproducibility with the package “report”  
208 (Makowski et al., 2023).

209

210

## RESULTS

211 Calls of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* consisted of a single-pulsed note with most energy  
212 concentrated in three harmonics (Fig. 3). We observed that among spectral parameters of  
213 call, individuals of *A. leucopygius* showed a reduction in the dominant frequency during  
214 playback trial which was not observed for maximum frequency. However, in relation to  
215 temporal parameters, during playback trial calls were less frequent and more spaced  
216 (Table 1, Fig. 4).

217 None of our variables presented a VIF higher than 10, so we considered all in our  
218 analysis (minimum frequency: 1.83; maximum frequency: 7.67; dominant frequency:  
219 1.37; bandwidth: 8.81; interval between calls: 2.21; number of calls: 2.64; call duration:  
220 1.26). Our analyses showed that the complete trial (pre-playback, playback and post-  
221 playback) presented a significant influence on dominant frequency ( $\chi^2 = 10.28$ ,  $P =$   
222  $0.006$ ), call duration ( $\chi^2 = 7.17$ ,  $P = 0.03$ ), interval between calls ( $\chi^2 = 43.47$ ,  $P < 0.001$ )  
223 and number of calls ( $\chi^2 = 494.87$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), but presented no influence on maximum

224 frequency ( $\chi^2 = 1.36$ ,  $P = 0.51$ ), minimum frequency ( $\chi^2 = 0.19$ ,  $P = 0.66$ ), and bandwidth  
225 ( $\chi^2 = 0.44$ ,  $P = 0.51$ ) (Table 2, Figs S3 -S9). Specifically, during the playback trial,  
226 individuals showed a reduction in call duration, call rate, and dominant frequency and an  
227 increase in the interval between calls. Additionally, during the post-playback trial, the  
228 call rate increased compared to the two previous trials (Table 2).

229 Individuals presented a weight of  $4.09 \pm 0.47$  g (3.1 - 4.9 g), SVL of  $38.56 \pm 2.03$   
230 mm (32.9 - 42 mm) and SMI of  $4.11 \pm 0.52$  (3.37 - 5.21). Body temperature had an  
231 average of  $20.77 \pm 1.18$  °C (18.4 - 22.6 °C), and air temperature had an average of  $22.68$   
232  $\pm 0.98$  °C (20 - 24 °C). None of these variables were excluded based on their VIF (SMI:  
233 1.22, body temperature: 1.36, air temperature: 1.46). None of these variables showed any  
234 influence on the response of individuals to traffic noise (Table 3).

235 Finally, our GLMM analysis showed that neither call, individual aspects nor  
236 environmental variables explained the harmonic shift between the first and the third  
237 harmonic (Table 4).

238

239

## DISCUSSION

240 In our analyses, we observed that urban traffic noise had a significant influence on several  
241 aspects of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* calls, even when it was not present anymore. Also,  
242 we observed that neither the body nor environmental aspects measured are related to these  
243 responses, which probably means that all individuals are subjected to this modification,  
244 independently of their body condition or temperature. We observed, during the playback  
245 trial, an influence of noise on almost all aspects of the call, except for the maximum  
246 frequency. All temporal variables showed a significant influence of playback trial, with  
247 calls becoming shorter, less frequent, and with a larger interval between them. It is  
248 consistent with most anuran species, since a recent study showed that 49 % of anuran

249 species decrease their call rate during exposure to a noise (Zaffaroni-Caorsi et al., 2022).  
250 These changes in the call pattern can directly imply communication with females. Similar  
251 results were also observed for *Scinax nasicus* (Leon et al., 2019), *Hyla arborea* (Lukanov  
252 and Naumov, 2019), *Rana clamitans*, *R. pipiens*, *H. versicolor* (Cunnington and Fahrig,  
253 2010), and *Pseudacris crucifer* (Hanna et al., 2014), with calls presenting less duration in  
254 noisy environments than in silent ones. In *Bokermannohyla hylax*, a species from the  
255 same subfamily of *A. leucopygius*, when in noisy environments, males present longer,  
256 more frequent and less spaced calls (Lima et al., 2022), similar to the one observed for  
257 *Dendropsophus triangulum* (Kaiser and Hammers, 2009). It reveals that the effect of  
258 anthropogenic noise on anuran call is not the same for all species (Zaffaroni-Caorsi et al.,  
259 2022), but that they probably tend to modify temporal aspects of the call, with only some  
260 exceptions (e.g., Parris et al., 2009; Grenat et al., 2019).

261 In the post-playback trial, individuals presented a significant increase in the  
262 number of calls when compared to the playback trial, but the estimate of our models  
263 showed slight increase in the number of calls also in relation to the pre-playback trial.  
264 Consequently, in the post-playback trial, individuals emitted calls at shorter intervals. It  
265 probably means that traffic noise stimulates individuals to increase the call rate, i.e., spend  
266 more energy on calling activity, even when the noise stimulus is no longer present.  
267 Similar results were observed for *Hyperolius pickersgilli*, a native species from South  
268 Africa, which presents an increase of 18 % in call rate after anthropogenic noise stimulus,  
269 in this case, aeroplane noise (Kruger and Du Preez, 2016). Calling is one of the most  
270 energetic spending activities of anurans (Ryan, 1988; Grafe and Thein, 2001; Wells and  
271 Schwartz, 2007), with metabolic rates rising up to tenfold over the resting metabolism  
272 (Wells and Schwartz, 2007). Consequently, the increasing calling activity after  
273 anthropogenic noise stimulus can induce individuals to spend more energy, and

274 consequently impair some other activities which also demand great amounts of energy,  
275 such as reproduction. In an experiment with *Hyla chrysoscelis*, evaluating the time  
276 response of females to mating calls, it was observed that in silent environments, females  
277 tend to respond faster to the call of males than in noisy environments, which means that  
278 anthropogenic noise masks the mating call emitted by males in a chorus (Bee and  
279 Swanson, 2007).

280 Furthermore, a study in Belize showed that anthropogenic noise promoted a  
281 decrease in the number of males present in choruses and the duration of the chorus during  
282 the night, and considering that females join the reproduction site later than males, which  
283 could substantially reduce reproductive success in these species (Kaiser et al., 2011).  
284 Unlike *B. hylax* (Lima et al., 2022), *A. leucopygius* only breeds at sites far from the  
285 boulevard in the PEFI (Lisboa et al., 2021). Therefore, individuals are probably not used  
286 to the levels of anthropogenic noise of the playback trial. However, it highlights that, as  
287 previously observed in other species (Bee and Swanson, 2007; Leon et al., 2019; Lukanov  
288 and Naumov, 2019), this type of noise can be harmful to individuals of *A. leucopygius*  
289 and consequently could be a factor that explains the non-occurrence of this species close  
290 to anthropogenic noise sources. Finally, we did not test for other noise sources, such as  
291 white noise or waterfall noise, to verify if the results observed here are specifically related  
292 to anthropogenic noise (e.g., white noise or traffic noise) or to any sort of noise those  
293 individuals are not used to (e.g., waterfall noise). However, considering that individuals  
294 of *A. leucopygius* typically occur in very silent habitats (Zina and Haddad, 2006a),  
295 probably both noise sources (anthropogenic and natural) could present an influence on  
296 their call parameters, and further studies are still necessary to evaluate this aspect.

297 We observed that individuals of *A. leucopygius* have the dominant frequency in  
298 the third of the three visible call harmonics. However, it also presented the dominant

299 frequency in the first harmonic in several calls. It was consistent with observation for  
300 other species of the same genus, such as *A. albosignatus* (Moser et al., 2022), for other  
301 species of a different genus but in the same family, such as *Boana albomarginata*  
302 (Rebouças et al., 2020) and *B. punctata* (Brunetti et al., 2015), and for other species from  
303 a different family, such as *Thoropa lutzii* (Nunes-de-Almeida et al., 2016). However, we  
304 observed that none of the examined variables were able to explain this phenomenon.  
305 Although Zina and Haddad (2006b) reported that individuals of *A. leucopygius* present  
306 dominant in the first harmonic when calling in antiphony and dominant frequency in the  
307 third harmonic when calling alone, we did not evaluate the number of individuals calling  
308 in the habitat in this study. This aspect requires further studies explicitly designed to  
309 observe this harmonic shifting, especially in an experimental approach.

310         This study demonstrated that individuals of *A. leucopygius* present calling activity  
311 influenced by anthropogenic noise, with a reduction of calling activity during the  
312 exposure to noise and a significant increase after that. Also, we observed that the  
313 harmonic shifting observed in this species is not related to traffic noise, nor to individual  
314 and environmental aspects. These results reinforce that further studies are still needed and  
315 that anthropogenic noise, generated by human activities in the city surrounding the habitat  
316 of this species (Lisboa et al., 2021), represents a potentially harmful influence on this  
317 population.

318

319

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

320 We thank to Natália Raga Catai, Iago Vinícius de Sá Fortes Junqueira, Ana Maria  
321 Macagnan, Matheus de Moraes dos Santos, Acácio Paiva and Karin Saito by their help in  
322 fieldwork. We also thank to Diogo Borges Provete by its help in analysis, to Instituto de  
323 Botânica by its authorisation for this research and access to PEFI, and Fundação Parque

324 Zoológico de São Paulo by its research funding. This study was carried out with the  
325 license of SISBIO (#52015-3) and SisGen (#A7FA4F8). This work was supported by the  
326 Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior under Grant #001, and  
327 São Paulo Research Foundation under Grant #2022/09659-4.

328

#### 329 SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

330 Supplementary material associated with this article can be found at <[http://www-](http://www-9.unipv.it/webshi/appendix/index.html)  
331 [9.unipv.it/webshi/appendix/index.html](http://www-9.unipv.it/webshi/appendix/index.html)> manuscript number 15334.

332

#### 333 REFERENCES

334 Bee, M.A., Swanson, E.M. (2007): Auditory masking of anuran advertisement calls by  
335 road traffic noise. *Anim. Behav.* **74**: 1765-1776.

336 Both, C., Grant, T. (2012): Biological invasions and the acoustic niche: the effect of  
337 bullfrog calls on the acoustic signals of white-banded tree frogs. *Biol. Lett.* **8**: 714-  
338 716.

339 Brunetti, A.E., Taboada, C., Faivovich, J. (2015): Extended vocal repertoire in *Hypsiboas*  
340 *punctatus* (Anura: Hylidae). *J. Herpetol.* **49**: 46-52.

341 Caorsi, V.Z., Both, C., Cechin, S., Antunes, R., Borges-Martins, M. (2017): Effects of  
342 traffic noise on the calling behavior of two Neotropical hylid frogs. *PLoS ONE*  
343 **12**: e0183342.

344 Cunningham, G.M. Fahrig, L. (2010): Plasticity in the vocalisations of anurans in response  
345 to traffic noise. *Acta Oecol.* **36**: 463-470.

346 Dena, S., Rebouças, R., Augusto-Alves, G., Toledo, L.F. (2018): Lessons from recordings  
347 lost in Brazil fire: deposit and back up. *Nature* **563**: 473-474.

348 Dena, S., Rebouças, R., Augusto-Alves, G., Zornosa-Torres, C., Pontes, M.R., Toledo,  
349 L.F. (2020): How much are we losing in not depositing anuran sound recordings  
350 in scientific collections? *Bioacoustics* **29**: 590-601.

351 Estrada A.R., Hedges, S.B. (1996): At the lower size limit in tetrapods: a new diminutive  
352 frog from Cuba (Leptodactylidae: *Eleutherodactylus*). *Copeia* **1996**: 852-859.

353 Feng, A.S., Schul, J. (2007): Sound Processing in Real-World Environments. In: Hearing  
354 and sound communication in amphibians, p. 323-350. Narins, P.M., Feng, A.S.,  
355 Fay, R.R., Popper, A.N., Eds, Springer, New York.

356 Fox J, Weisberg S. (2019): An R Companion to Applied Regression. Third. Thousand  
357 Oaks CA: Sage. <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/jfox/Books/Companion/>

358 Frost D.R. (2023): Amphibian Species of the World: An Online Reference. Version 6.1.  
359 accessed 2023 3rd April. <https://amphibiansoftheworld.amnh.org/index.php>.

360 Gerhardt, H.C. Klump, G.M. (1988): Masking of acoustic signals by the chorus  
361 background noise in the green tree frog: a limitation on mate choice. *Anim. Behav.*  
362 **36**: 1247-1249.

363 Giasson L.O., Haddad C.F. (2006): Social interactions in *Hypsiboas albomarginatus*  
364 (Anura: Hylidae) and the significance of acoustic and visual signals. *J. Herpetol.*  
365 **40**: 171-180.

366 Grafe, T., Thein, J. (2001): Energetics of calling and metabolic substrate use during  
367 prolonged exercise in the European treefrog *Hyla arborea*. *J. Comp. Physiol. B.*  
368 **171**: 69-76.

369 Grenat, P.R., Pollo, F.E., Ferrero, M.A., Martino, A.L. (2019): Differential and additive  
370 effects of natural biotic and anthropogenic noise on call properties of  
371 *Odontophrynus americanus* (Anura, Odontophrynidae): Implications for the  
372 conservation of anurans inhabiting noisy environments. *Ecol. Ind.* **99**: 67-73.



373 Haddad, C.F. Sawaya, R.J. (2000): Reproductive modes of Atlantic Forest Hylid frogs:  
374 A general overview and the description of a new mode. *Biotropica* **32**: 862-871.

375 Hanna, D.E.L., Wilson, D.R., Blouin-Demers, G., Mennill, D.J. (2014): Spring peepers  
376 *Pseudacris crucifer* modify their call structure in response to noise. *Curr. Zool.*  
377 **60**: 438-448.

378 K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics. (2019): Raven Pro: Interactive  
379 Sound Analysis Software (Version 1.6.1). <http://ravensoundsoftware.com/>

380 Kaiser, K. Hammers, J. (2009): The effect of anthropogenic noise on male advertisement  
381 call rate in the neotropical treefrog, *Dendropsophus triangulum*. *Behaviour* **146**:  
382 1053-1069.

383 Kaiser, K., Scofield, D.G., Alloush, M., Jones, R.M., Marczak, S., Martineau, K., Oliva,  
384 M.A., Narins, P.M. (2011): When sounds collide: the effect of anthropogenic  
385 noise on a breeding assemblage of frogs in Belize, Central America. *Behaviour*  
386 **148**: 215-232.

387 Köhler, J., Jansen, M., Rodriguez, A., Kok, P.J., Toledo, L.F., Emmrich, M., Glaw, F.,  
388 Haddad, C.F., Roedel, M.-O., Vences, M. (2017): The use of bioacoustics in  
389 anuran taxonomy: theory, terminology, methods and recommendations for best  
390 practice. *Zootaxa* **4251**: 1-124.

391 Kruger, D.J.D. Du Preez, L.H. (2016): The effect of airplane noise on frogs: a case study  
392 on the Critically Endangered Pickersgill's reed frog (*Hyperolius pickersgilli*).  
393 *Ecol. Res.* **31**: 393-405.

394 Leon, E., Peltzer, P.M., Lorenzon, R., Lajmanovich, R.C., Beltzer, A.H. (2019): Effect  
395 of traffic noise on *Scinax nasicus* advertisement call (Amphibia, Anura).  
396 *Iheringia.* **109**: e2019007.

397 Lima, N. de A.P., Rebouças, R., Toledo, L.F., Lisboa, C.S. (2022): Influence of urban  
398 noise in call traits of the Atlantic Forest treefrog *Bokermannohyla hylax*. Zool.  
399 Anz. **300**: 41-46.

400 Lingnau, R. Bastos, R.P. (2007): Vocalisations of the Brazilian torrent frog *Hylodes*  
401 *heyeri* (Anura: Hylodidae): Repertoire and influence of air temperature on  
402 advertisement call variation. J. Nat. Hist. **41**: 1227-1235.

403 Lisboa, C.S., Vaz, R.I., Malagoli, L.R., Barbo, F.E., Venturini, R.C., Brasileiro, C.A.  
404 (2021): Herpetofauna from an Atlantic Forest Fragment in São Paulo, Brasil.  
405 Herpetol. Conserv. Biol. **16**: 436-451.

406 Lüdecke D, Makowski D, Waggoner P, Patil I. (2020): performance: Assessment of  
407 Regression Models Performance. [https://CRAN.R-](https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=performance)  
408 [project.org/package=performance](https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=performance)

409 Lukanov, S. Naumov, B. (2019): Effect of anthropogenic noise on call parameters of *Hyla*  
410 *arborea* (Anura: Hylidae). Ecol. Quest. **30**: 55-60.

411 Makowski D, Lüdecke D, Patil I, Thériault R. (2023): Automated results reporting as a  
412 practical tool to improve reproducibility and methodological best practices  
413 adoption. CRAN. <https://easystats.github.io/report/>

414 Maria, B., Tonini, J.F.R., Rebouças, R., Toledo, L F. (2023): Hidden shifts in allometry  
415 scaling between sound production and perception in anurans. PeerJ **11**: e16322.

416 Moser, C.F., Schuck, L.K., Olmedo, G.M., Lingnau, R. (2022): Individual variation in  
417 the advertisement call of *Aplastodiscus albosignatus* (Anura: Hylidae) is  
418 correlated with body size and environmental temperature. Zoologia **39**: e21008.

419 Nauwelaerts S, Coeck J, Aerts P. (2000): Visible implant elastomers as a method for  
420 marking adult anurans. Herpetol. Rev. **31**(3):154.

421 Nunes-de-Almeida, C.H., Assis, C.L., Feio, R.N., Toledo, L.F. (2016): Redescription of  
422 the advertisement call of five species of *Thoropa* (Anura, Cycloramphidae),  
423 including recordings of rare and endangered species. PLoS ONE **11**: e0162617.

424 Parris, K.M., Velik-Lord, M., North, J.M.A. (2009): Frogs call at a higher pitch in traffic  
425 noise. Ecol. Soc. **14**: 1-25.

426 Peig, J. Green, A.J. (2009): New perspectives for estimating body condition from  
427 mass/length data: the scaled mass index as an alternative method. Oikos **118**:  
428 1883-1891.

429 Quinn G.P., Keough, M.J. (2002): Experimental design and data analysis for biologists.  
430 Cambridge University Press.

431 R Core Team (2022). R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing. Vienna,  
432 Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. <https://www.R-project.org/>

433 Rebouças, R., Augusto-Alves, G., Toledo, L.F. (2020): Evolution of treefrogs' calls in  
434 tropical islands might be under directional selection. J. Zool. **312**: 43-52.

435 Rebouças, R. (2022): White-edged cowards: high-pitched treefrogs will be attacked by  
436 those with orange legs. Behaviour **160**: 1-25.

437 Ryan, M.J. (1988): Energy, calling, and selection. Amer. Zool. **28**: 885-898.

438 Toledo, L.F., Martins, I.A., Bruschi, D.P., Passos, M.A., Alexandre, C., Haddad, C.F.  
439 (2015): The anuran calling repertoire in the light of social context. Acta Ethol. **18**:  
440 87-99.

441 Tonini, J.F.R., Provete, D.B., Maciel, N.M., Morais, A.R., Goutte, S., Toledo, L.F.,  
442 Pyron, R.A. (2020): Allometric escape from acoustic constraints is rare for frog  
443 calls. Ecol. Evol. **10**: 3686-3695.

444 Wells, K.D. Schwartz, J.J. (2007): The behavioral ecology of anuran communication. In:  
445 Hearing and sound communication in amphibians, p. 44-86. Narins, P.M., Feng,  
446 A.S., Fay, R.R., Popper, A.N., Eds, Springer, New York.

447 Zaffaroni-Caorsi, V., Both, C., Márquez, R., Llusia, D., Narins, P., Debon, M., Borges-  
448 Martins, M. (2023): Effects of anthropogenic noise on anuran amphibians.  
449 Bioacoustics **32**(1): 90-120.

450 Zina, J., Haddad, C.F. (2006a): Ecology and reproductive biology of two species of  
451 *Aplastodiscus* (Anura: Hylidae) in the Atlantic forest, Brazil. J Nat Hist. **40**: 1831-  
452 1840.

453 Zina, J. Haddad, C.F. (2006b): Acoustic repertoire of *Aplastodiscus arildae* and *A.*  
454 *leucopygius* (Anura: Hylidae) in Serra do Japi, Brazil. S Am J Herpetol. **1**: 227-  
455 236.

456

457

## TABLES

458

	Pre-playback	Playback	Pos-playback
Minimum Frequency (Hz)	740.1 ± 95.83 (598.7 - 1097.8)	-	736.4 ± 85.57 (580.9 - 1015.9)
Maximum Frequency (Hz)	2551 ± 265.37 (2212 - 3201)	2535 ± 213.1 (2248 - 3159)	2558 ± 292.4 (2205 - 3328)
Dominant Frequency (Hz)	1830.5 ± 686.56 (750 - 2449.2)	1629.5 ± 632.7 (703.1 - 2374.2)	1832.3 ± 704.74 (750 - 2437.5)
Bandwidth (Hz)	1811 ± 281.67 (1254 - 2451)	-	1821 ± 300.09 (1333 - 2578)
Call duration (s)	0.098 ± 0.008 (0.081 - 0.109)	0.093 ± 0.11 (0.067 - 0.107)	0.097 ± 0.008 (0.082 - 0.109)
Interval between calls (s)	0.709 ± 0.28 (0.4 - 1.67)	2086 ± 1.53 (0.64 - 7.16)	0.604 ± 0.183 (0.384 - 1.079)
Number of calls	79 ± 2.39 (33 - 121)	33.25 ± 18.14 (3 - 80)	89.35 ± 21.73 (51 - 126)

459 **Table 1.** Summary statistics of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* call during pre-playback,  
 460 playback and pos-playback trials.

461

<b>Response</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Coefficient</b>	<b>95% CI</b>	<b>t/z</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Effects</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Std. Coef.</b>	<b>Fit</b>	
Call Duration	Intercept	0.1	0.09, 0.1	44.39	< 0.001	fixed		-0.32		
	exp [POS]	4.29E-03	0, 0.01	2.22	0.031	fixed		0.45		
	exp [PRE]	4.66E-03	0, 0.01	2.41	0.019	fixed		0.49		
		7.10E-03				random	individual			
		6.12E-03				random	residual			
		AICc								-368.44
		R2 (conditional)								0.59
		R2 (marginal)								0.05
		Sigma								0.006
	Minimum frequency	Intercept	740.12	698.92, 781.32	36.43	< 0.001	fixed		0.02	
exp [POS]		3.71	-21.10, 13.67	-0.43	0.67	fixed		-0.04		
		86.71				random	individual			
		27.11				random	residual			
		AICc								432.02
		R2 (conditional)								0.91
		R2 (marginal)								4.28e-04
		Sigma								27.11
Maximum frequency		Intercept	2534.98	2418.89, 2651.07	43.76	< 0.001	fixed		-0.05	
		exp [POS]	22.83	-17.44, 63.1	1.14	0.261	fixed		0.09	
	exp [PRE]	15.97	-24.3, 56.24	0.79	0.43	fixed		0.06		
		251.15				random	individual			
		63.54				random	residual			
		AICc								728.65
		R2 (conditional)								0.94

	R2 (marginal)							0.001
	Sigma							63.54
Bandwidth	Intercept	1810.83	1678.85, 1942.81	27.83	< 0.001	fixed		-0.02
	exp [POS]	10.58	-21.78, 42.93	0.66	0.51	fixed		0.04
		286.62				random	individual	
		50.45				random	residual	
		AICc						500.45
	R2 (conditional)							0.97
	R2 (marginal)							3.39e-04
	Sigma							50.45
Dominant frequency	Intercept	1629.53	1326.89, 1932.17	10.79	< 0.001	fixed		-0.2
	exp [POS]	202.81	57.1, 348.53	2.79	0.007	fixed		0.3
	exp [PRE]	200.97	55.25, 346.69	2.76	0.008	fixed		0.3
		635.01				random	individual	
		229.93				random	residual	
	AICc							862.05
	R2 (conditional)							0.89
	R2 (marginal)							0.02
	Sigma							229.93
Interval between calls	Intercept	2.09	1.68, 2.49	10.31	< 0.001	fixed		0.85
	exp [POS]	-1.48	-1.98, -0.98	-5.91	< 0.001	fixed		-1.32
	exp [PRE]	-1.38	-1.88, -0.87	-5.49	< 0.001	fixed		-1.23
		0.44				random	individual	
		0.79				random	residual	
	AICc							167.67
	R2 (conditional)							0.51

	R2 (marginal)							0.36
	Sigma							0.79
<b>Number of calls</b>	Intercept	3.46	3.3, 3.62	43.19	< 0.001	fixed		3.46
	exp [POS]	0.99	0.9, 1.08	21.79	< 0.001	fixed		0.99
	exp [PRE]	0.87	0.77, 0.96	18.74	< 0.001	fixed		0.87
		0.31				random	individual	
	AICc							532.75
	R2 (conditional)							0.95
	R2 (marginal)							0.63
	Sigma							1

463 **Table 2.** Coefficients of the Generalised Linear Mixed Effects model considering the influence of each trial (pre-playback, playback, and post-  
464 playback) on each call parameter as response variables (t or z values are corresponding to Gaussian and Poisson families, respectively).

465



Model	Parameter	Coefficient	95% CI	t/z	P	Fit
Call Duration	Intercept	0.01	-0.02, 0.05	0.71	0.48	
	SMI	-1.77E-04	0,0	-0.14	0.89	
	Air temperature	-6.35E-04	0,0	-0.68	0.5	
	Body temperature	7.91E-05	0,0	0.11	0.91	
	AICc					-453.67
	R2 (conditional)					-452.56
	R2 (marginal)					-443.2
	Sigma					5.26E-03
Dominant frequency	Intercept	-174.72	-1531.99, 1182.56	-0.25	0.8	
	SMI	7.03	-99.98, 85.92	-0.15	0.88	
	Air temperature	4.51	-62.05, 71.08	0.13	0.89	
	Body temperature	4.89	-47.13, 56.91	0.18	0.85	
	AICc					806.49
	R2 (conditional)					807.6
	R2 (marginal)					816.96
	Sigma					191.14
Interval between calls	Intercept	1.18	-4.01, 6.38	0.45	0.65	
	SMI	-0.06	-0.42, 0.3	-0.33	0.74	
	Air temperature	-0.02	-0.27, 0.24	-0.14	0.89	
	Body temperature	-0.03	-0.22, 0.17	-0.25	0.8	
	AICc					138.72

	R2 (conditional)					139.83
	R2 (marginal)					149.19
	Sigma					0.73
Number of calls	Intercept	-0.84	-9.93, 8.26	-0.18	0.86	
	SMI	-0.18	-0.8, 0.45	-0.55	0.58	
	Air temperature	4.77E-03	-0.44, 0.45	0.02	0.98	
	Body temperature	0.07	-0.28, 0.41	0.37	0.71	
	AICc					205.85
	R2 (conditional)					206.96
	R2 (marginal)					216.32
	Sigma					1.28

467 **Table 3.** Coefficients of Generalised Linear Models between residuals of models which showed a significant influence of traffic noise, as response,  
 468 and Scaled Mass Index (SMI), body temperature and air temperature as predictive variables.

469

Parameter	Coefficient	95% CI	z	P	Effects	Group	Std. Coef.	Fit
Intercept	232.33	-5.62E+06, 5.62E+06	8.11E-05	> 0.99	fixed		235.29	
exp [POS]	-207.19	-6.62E+06, 6.61E+06	-6.14E-05	> 0.99	fixed		-211.76	
exp [PRE]	-106.09	-6.68E+06, 6.68E+06	-3.11E-05	> 0.99	fixed		-105.02	
Call duration	-0.55	-2.32E+06, 2.32E+06	-4.64E-07	> 0.99	fixed		-0.03	
Interval								
between calls	2.76	-2.19E+06, 2.19E+06	2.47E-06	> 0.99	fixed		0.26	
Minimum frequency	-4.93	-2.40E+06, 2.40E+06	-4.02E-06	> 0.99	fixed		-2.95	
Maximum frequency	2.38	-2.46E+06, 2.46E+06	1.90E-06	> 0.99	fixed		4.49	
SMI	10.75	-2.92E+06, 2.92E+06	7.23E-06	> 0.99	fixed		10.69	
Body temperature	-15.03	-2.71E+06, 2.71E+06	-1.09E-05	> 0.99	fixed		-15.4	
Dominant frequency	266.95	-2.27E+06, 2.27E+06	2.30E-04	> 0.99	fixed		269.6	
Air temperature	8.6	-2.83E+06, 2.83E+06	5.94E-06	> 0.99	fixed		10.35	
n individuals	-52.25	-2.51E+06, 2.51E+06	-4.08E-05	> 0.99	fixed		-58.75	
	0.01				random	individual		
AICc								26.09
R2 (conditional)								1
R2 (marginal)								1
Sigma								1
Log loss								2.22E-16

470 **Table 3.** Coefficients of Generalised Linear Mixed Effects Models analysis (GLMM) using harmonic (first or third) as response variable and trial,  
471 temporal variables (call duration and interval between calls), spectral variables (minimum and maximum frequencies), individual variables (SMI and  
472 body temperature) and habitat variables (air temperature and number of individuals calling) as predictors.

473

## FIGURE LEGENDS

474

475

476 **Figure 1.** Sampling site of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* in the Estadual das Fontes do  
477 Ipiranga, municipality of São Paulo (photo by Victor Fávoro).

478 **Figure 2.** Experimental design, with the location of the speaker according to the recording  
479 range of the microphone, with the aim to reduce the influence of traffic noise exposed to  
480 the recorded individual on posterior analysis (individual not in scale).

481 **Figure 3.** Call of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius*: Oscillogram (A), Spectrogram (B) and  
482 frequency spectrum of the call in relation to the noise of boulevard (grey) (C).

483 **Figure 4.** Spectral and temporal variables of the call of *Aplastodiscus leucopygius* in the  
484 three trials: pre-playback (green), playback (brown) and post-playback (yellow).

485

accepted manuscript

486 **Figure 1**

487

488

489

490

491

492

493

494

495

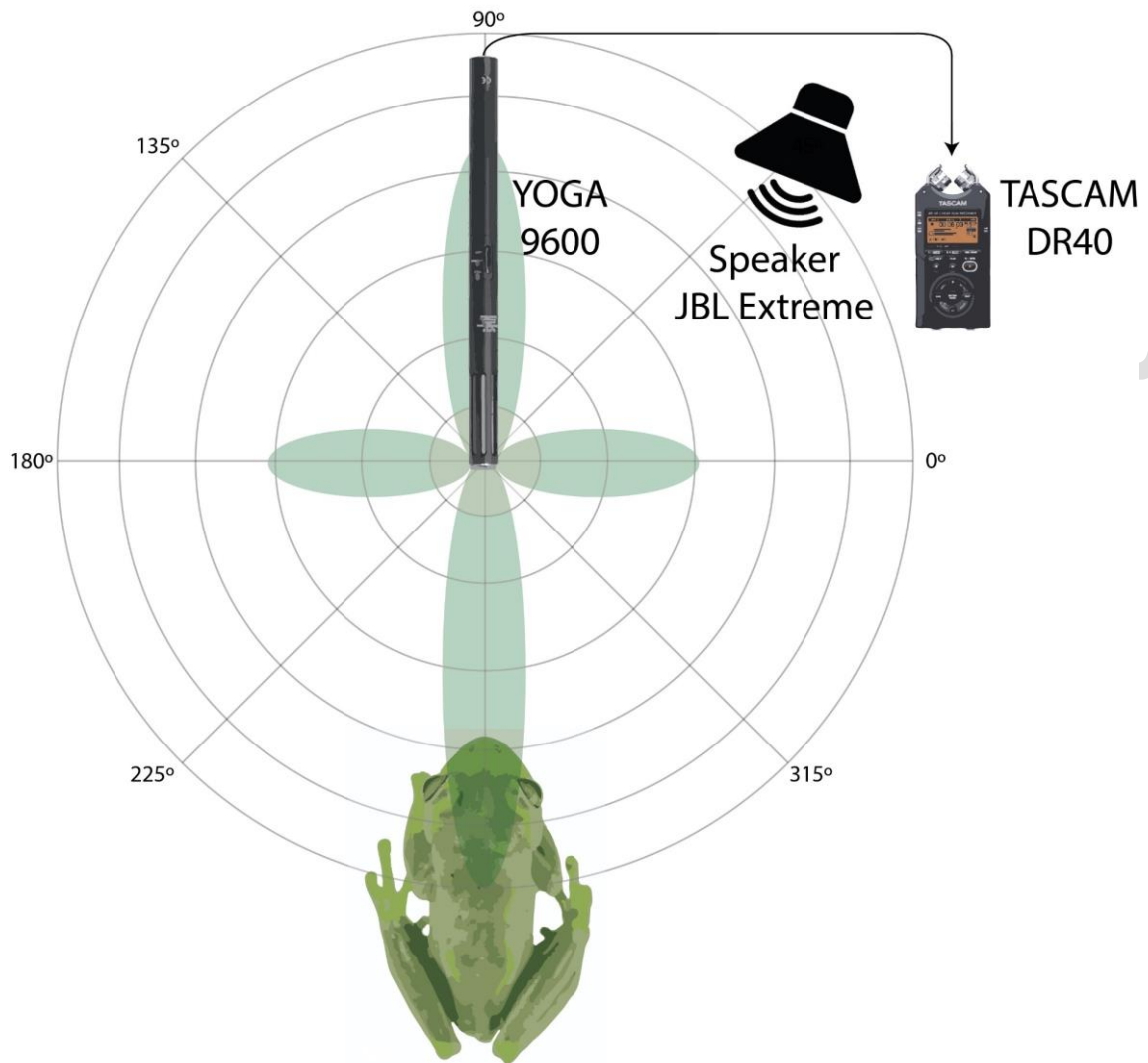
496

497



accepted manuscript

498 **Figure 2**



499

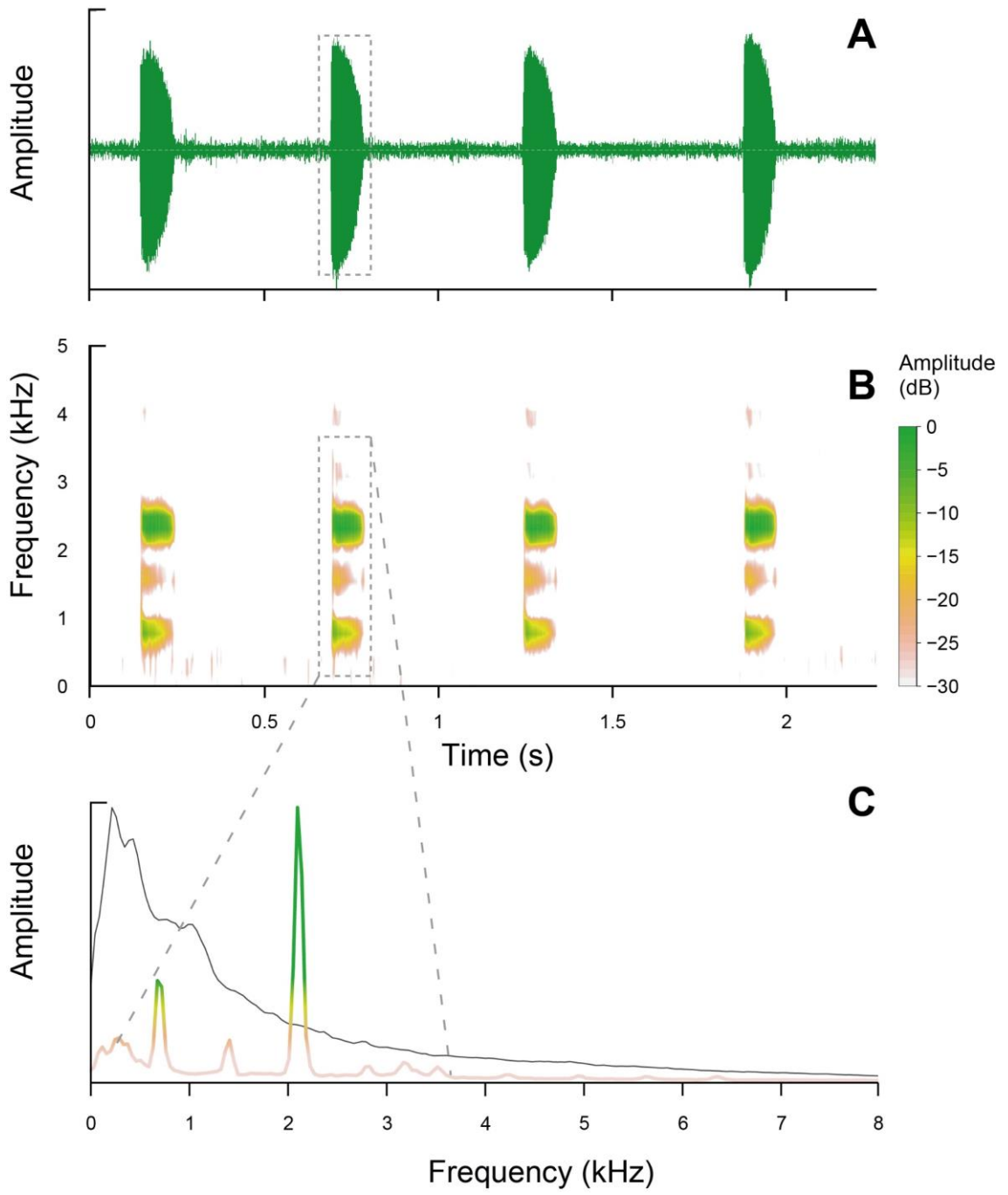
500

501

acceler

502 **Figure 3**

503



504 **Figure 4**

505

506

