Critically endangered new species ofNectophrynoides (Anura: Bufonidae) from the Kihansi Gorge, Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania

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Abstract

A new species of the Tanzanian ovoviviparous dwarf toad *Nectophrynoides* is described from the Kihansi River Gorge in the Udzungwa Mountains, and a key to the genus provided. The new species, currently known only from small patches of spray-dependent wetland vegetation associated with Kihansi Gorge waterfalls, is probably the most vulnerable member of this genus on account of the Lower Kihansi Hydropower Project which is due to go on-line in 1999. This project will significantly reduce the river flow into the gorge and consequently the amount of spray that maintains a unique plant and animal community. Measures are suggested for improving chances of long-term survival of the species.

Key words
Nectophrynoides ,
Tanzania,
Kihansi River Gorge,
spray wetlands