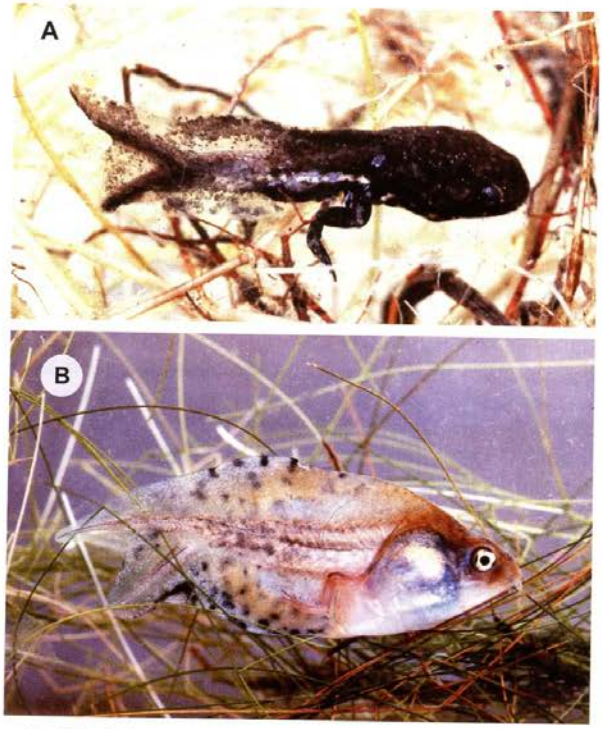

FIG. 1. Tadpoles of *Elachistocleis* sp. (A) and *Scinax curicica* (B) with bifurcated tails.

obtained that had bifurcated tails: one microhylid, *Elachistocleis* sp. (Fig. 1A) and four hylids, *Bokermannohyla saxicola* (ZUEC 15451), *Scinax curicica* (ZUEC 15575; Fig. 1B), *S. squalirostris* (ZUEC 15452), and *Trachycephalus mesophaeus* (ZUEC 16252). The microhylid and the first three hylids were collected at Serra do Cipó, municipality of Jaboticatubas, state of Minas Gerais, SE Brazil, whereas the fourth hylid was collected in the municipality of Ubatuba, state of São Paulo, SE Brazil. These specimens are in the Amphibian Collection of the Museu de Zoologia "Prof. Adão José Cardoso" (ZUEC), Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil. The swimming ability of the fork-tailed tadpoles apparently was unaffected or little affected by the malformation, although the mid-water hovering tadpole of *S. curicica* might be hampered in its foraging (I. Sazima, pers. comm.).

This type of malformation (forked tail) has been classified as superficial as it may be the result of healed injuries (Morgan 1990, *op cit.*; USFWS 1999, *op cit.*). However, we cannot rule out the possibility of the influence of one or multiple environmental contaminants for the *T. mesophaeus* tadpole, as it was collected in a drainage ditch. The remaining tadpoles were collected in relatively pristine habitats.

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BUFO DEBILIS (Green Toad). **MORTALITY**. Little is known about the negative fitness costs of reproduction on amphibians in arid regions. Herein we document a mass anuran mortality event of unknown cause(s), consisting mainly of *Bufo debilis* but also including other bufonids and pelobatids.

We sampled Chihuahuan Desert wetlands on Bureau of Land Management land for water parameters during July 2009. We found a large number of dead bufonid and pelobatid anurans at a desert playa that has an earthen cattle tank excavated within its perimeter (UTM 13S 0317867, 3565407; NAD 27). Monsoonal rains had elicited a breeding event during 4–5 July 2009, and an additional rain on 10–11 July likely prolonged the breeding event. *Bufo debilis* were present the first evening after the rain, but were not calling with the rest of the chorus. We returned on 14 July and found a large number of dead *B. debilis*, *B. cognatus*, *Scaphiopus couchii*, *Spea bombifrons*, and *Sp. multiplicata*). We then formally surveyed for bodies 15 July 2009 walking transects across the wetland and being meticulous to not double-count individuals. Carcasses appeared to be distributed randomly along the shore and around grass clumps in the water. There were likely more individuals initially dead on the upland surrounding the playa, but we sampled several days after the rain event and many, if not most, of the dead individuals on land were likely eaten or carried away. We searched the wetland (140 m x 80 m) and found 21 *B. debilis*, two *B. cognatus*, and three unidentified pelobatids dead, floating around the edges of the wetland and adjacent to grass clumps within the wetland. We had two carcasses (*B. cognatus* and *S. couchii*) tested for the presence of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*) using PCR at Texas Tech University. Swabs were taken from the toes, and dorsal and ventral surfaces of each frog. No evidence of *Bd* infection was found. However, it should be noted that the sample size was small and the individuals sampled were degrading by the time we collected them in the field.

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BUFO TERRESTRIS (Southern Toad). **PREDATION**. While conducting a road survey at ca. 2100 h on 3 July 2009 in Okaloosa Co., Florida (USA), we encountered a juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, walking along a dirt road. The bird was apparently using the road as a foraging corridor and feeding on toads and other prey items. As we watched, the heron captured and began to consume a *Bufo terrestris*. We were unable to determine if the heron would have ingested the toad