



With 542 species, *Pristimantis* is the most speciose genus of vertebrates. This fact makes its taxonomical assessment very challenging. The creation of the new subgenus, *Huicundomantis*, is meant to help the partition of *Pristimantis* into smaller, more manageable units without generating taxonomic instability.

Huicundomantis has a robust phylogenetic identity and morphological distinctiveness. It comprises two species groups and 28 species. Before this taxonomic revision, only twelve of these species were described. Integrative analyses, including genetic, morphological, bioacoustic, and environmental information, helped defining species boundaries and uncovering cryptic species. The increase of more than 100% in the species richness of this clade suggests that the biodiversity of *Pristimantis* is still highly underestimated.

Huicundomantis occur in the Andes of central and southern Ecuador and northern Peru. Most new species lack information to assess their conservation status; the remaining are threatened with extinction because of its restricted distribution—less than 2500 km² in all cases. Sixteen species of *Huicundomantis* inhabit protected areas but, the habitat of the other twelve is being continuously diminished by human activities like cattle raising, agriculture, mining, dam construction, and human settlements. This new taxonomic review of *Pristimantis* will help upcoming conservation efforts to make more informed decisions to protect these group.

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SYSTEMATICS OF *HUICUNDOMANTIS*, A NEW SUBGENUS OF *PRISTIMANTIS* (ANURA, STRABOMANTIDAE) WITH EXTRAORDINARY CRYPTIC DIVERSITY AND ELEVEN NEW SPECIES

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Pristimantis atillo Páez & Ron, sp. nov.

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