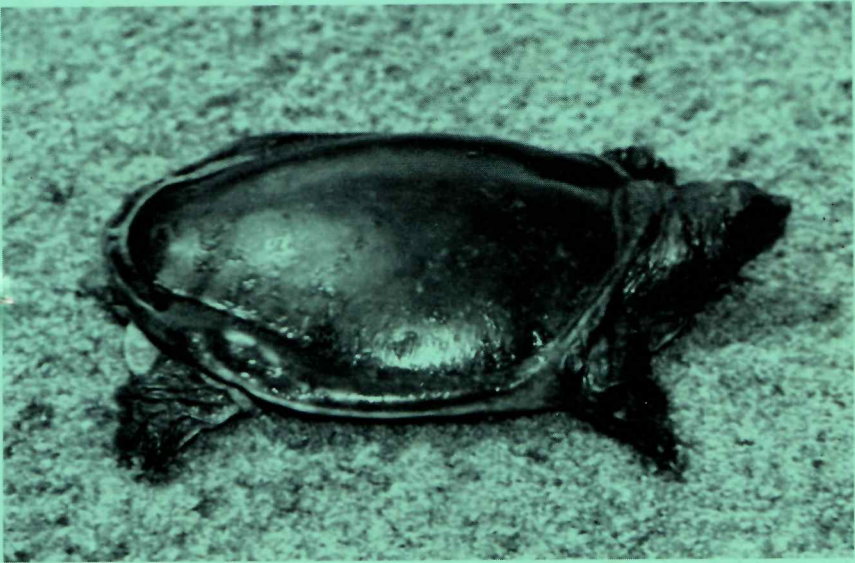


Cobra

Volume - 57

July - September 2004



*Quarterly Newsletter
Of the Chennai Snake Park Trust*

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Editor:

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Cover

Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*)

Found in fresh waters in India and other parts of South Asia. Feeds on small fish, tadpoles, insects and water plants.

Photo: R.R. Chari

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"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy"

- John C. Sawhill (1936-2000)

President, The Nature Conservancy.

Dr. V. Vijayaraghavan
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Regional Director, Director (WLP)
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Cover

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- 39** RANDOM HARVEST - B. Vijayaraghavan.

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Twenty or less 20 species of anophelids and 129 species of reptiles, including 27 species of turtles and tortoises, 19 species of lizards, monitor lizards and snakes, 80 species of snakes and 2 species of crocodiles and 1 species of gharial from Bangladesh. Status and distribution in the country are also mentioned.

Bangladesh is bounded on three sides - West, North and part of the East - by the Indian states of West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram, and on part of the East by the Arakan province of Myanmar.

The land of Bangladesh is classified as hill, terrace and floodplain areas. The hill areas comprise the high and low hill ranges of the districts of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati that were formerly called Chittagong Hill Tracts, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sylhet and Sunamganj, and the northern parts of Netrakona, Mymensingh, Sherpur and Jaisampur Districts, to some extent.

Formerly Associate professor of Zoology
Chattogram University, Chattogram, Bangladesh

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CHECKLIST OF THE HERPETOFAUNA OF BANGLADESH - Mohammad

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ARY BILASPAR, CHITTAGANGH - Kalam Chanda and V.K. Panley

RANDOM HARVEST - B. Vijayarajam



CHECKLIST OF THE HERPETOFAUNA OF BANGLADESH

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E-mail: drrezakhan@yahoo.com

This paper lists 26 species of amphibians and 129 species of reptiles, including 27 species of turtles and tortoises, 19 species of lizards, monitor lizards and skinks, 80 species of snakes and 2 species of crocodiles and 1 species of gharial from Bangladesh. Status and distribution in the country are also mentioned.

Bangladesh is bounded on three sides - West, North and part of the East - by the Indian states of West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram, and on part of the East by the Arakan province of Myanmar.

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*Formerly Associate professor of Zoology
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These cover about 20 per cent of the total area of the country and consist of unconsolidated or little-consolidated sand and shale. This area used to be covered with mixed-, semi-evergreen and evergreen forests about half a century back. At the current time there exist virtually no virgin mixed- or semi- evergreen or evergreen forests in Bangladesh (Khan 2003).

The best biodiversity habitat still available in the country is possibly the Soondarban (This name has come from a Bengali word 'Soondar' or 'Shundar' meaning beautiful. So, in English it should be either Soondar or Shundar but not Sundarbans or Sundarban as called by the authorities in West Bengal in India and in Bangladesh. Also Soondarban is singular and not plural as used in many documents). The mangrove forest is located at the south-west corner of the country bordering the 24 Parganas District of the Indian State of West Bengal.

The present account is largely based on the work of this author and others who worked with the herpetofauna of Bangladesh, stretching from mid-19th century till date. It is largely based on the manuscript of Khan (in press) that is going to be a modified version of his *Wildlife of Bangladesh - a checklist* (Khan 1982).

Arrangement of the Checklist

The nomenclature has mostly followed Cox *et al*, 1998, Daniel 1983, Das 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2003, Deuti and Bharati-Goswami 1995, Dubois 1986, Dubois 1987, Duellman 1993, Dutta 1992, 1998, Dutta and Manamendra-Arachchi 1996, Frost 1985, Gorham 1974, IUCN 1996, Khan 1980, 1982a, 1982b, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1992, 1996a, 1996b?, 1998, and in press, Sarker and Sarker 1988. In addition, works of Daniel (1963a & b, 1975); Smith (1943), Whitaker (1977) and Pritchard (1979), and a few others included in the reference section have also been consulted.

The scientific name is followed by common English and Bengali names wherever possible. The author names have been used compulsorily for the subspecies and generally for most of the other species.



LEGENDS

Status:

Status mentioned in the checklist only gives directions and not the actual quantitative analyses of population of each species in the country.

vc: Very common: species likely to be present in any part of its range; within Bangladesh; may be seen during 80 to 100 percent of the field visits and in good number.

c: Common: Species may or may not be present in every part of its range; may be seen during 50 to 79% of the visits in fairly good number.

uc: Uncommon: Species likely to be met only at certain areas of its range and during 20 to 49 % of the visits; thinly populated.

f : Few: Occurs in small numbers, may be met during less than 19% of the visits in very small numbers

rr: Very Rare : Species found only occasionally in its range.

??: The author is not sure of the occurrence of the Species and/or uncertain of its status and distribution in the country

IUCN- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural resources or World Conservation Union

CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora that regulates world trade in endangered wildlife species. It has 3 schedules: Schedule I, II and III. Animals included in schedule I cannot be traded.

IUCN STATUS

dd: data deficient

en: endangered

vu: Vulnerable

RDB- Red data Book of IUCN 1996



DISTRIBUTION

BB: Bay of Bengal.

B' desh: Bangladesh.

cb:Cox's Bazar, a forest Division and a district, earlier used to be a subdivision under Chittagong District.

cht: Chittagong Hill Tracts- include Mixed-evergreen forest and Kaptai Lake- an artificial reservoir.

ctg.: Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Districts

df or sf: Sal forest, deciduous forest, of Madhupur tract; Durgapur Upzilla of Mymensingh, Sherpur and Jamalpur Districts. Also includes Sal forest in Barind tract that is in Thankurgaon, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Sylhet Districts.

ef: mixed- or semi- evergreen and evergreen forests of Greater Districts of Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Sylhet.

Forests: All 3 types - Mixed-evergreen, Mangrove and Sal forests

Madhupur Tract:This area is within greater Dhaka, present day Dhaka and Gazipur, Jamalpur, Mymensingh and Tangail Districts. It's an area of reddish soil and the land is little elevated than floodplains of the bordering areas.

NB- Northern Bangladesh

SB: Soondarban (Sundarban/Sunderbans) Mangrove Forest of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat Districts.

SE: South-East.

S'mongal: Srimongal, under Moulvibazar district. Most references are to the Lawachhara forest of the West Bhanugach Reserve, about six km of Srimongal township, which is very rich in bird fauna and primates.

Slit: Greater Sylhet District supports scattered mixed-evergreen, moist deciduous forests, most teat estates of the country and many wetland areas.



SM: Saint Martin's Island - only coral-ringed island of B'desh at the south-eastern extremity of the country.

SWM: South-west monsoon.

Vg: Village grove, vegetation in the countryside.

w: Widely distributed in the country.

wetl: Wetlands include **beels**, **baors** and **haors**- all freshwater natural depressions formed due to various geological reasons spread over many parts of the country. These are now disappearing due to over fishing and conversion of land for unsustainable practice of agriculture and development of homestead.

*1 asterisk would mean species identification might not be difficult in the field

** 2 asterisks – species identification difficult

*** 3 asterisks- species identification very difficult

CHECKLIST
Class- Amphibia

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
Order - Anura Family- Pelobatidae					
1	<i>Megophrys parva</i> (Boulenger, 1893)	Myanmar Pelobatid Toad	Bormi Bang	? dd	reported by Dutta (1997), doubtful occurrence, no sight record, ef
Bufoinae					
2	<i>Bufo melanostictus</i> Schneider, 1799	Common Toad/ Common Asian Toad	Kuno Bang	vc, w	human dwellings, forests
3	<i>Bufo stomaticus</i> Lütken, 1862	Marbled Toad	Khoshkhoshey Bang	f, w	certain coastal islands and SB, Charlands in Jamuna River (Nazrul Haque, pers. Comm.)
4	<i>Pedostibes kempi</i> (Boulenger, 1919)	Garó Hills Tree Toad	Gachh Bang	? dd	doubtful occurrence in sf of NE, no sight record yet,
Microhylidae:					
5	<i>Kaloula pulchra</i> Gray, 1831	Kaloula/Painted Frog	Venpu Bang	uc, ef	in forest villages, during SWM
6	<i>Microhyla berdmorei</i> Blyth, 1856	Berdmore's Narrow-mouthed Frog	Berdmore's Cheena Bang	?	reported by Dutta (1997), doubtful occurrence in ef of SE

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
7	<i>Microhyla ornata</i> (Duméril & Bibron species, 1841)	Ornate Microhylid/ Ornate Narrow-mouthed Frog	Cheena Bang	vc, w	SWM, most widespread of the two
8	<i>Microhyla rubra</i> (Jerdon, 1854)	Red Microhylid/Red Narrow-mouthed Frog	Lal Cheena Bang	c, w	in vg and forests during SWM
9	<i>Uperodon globulosus</i> (Günther, 1864) (Khan 1982)	Balloon Frog/Grey Balloon Frog	Photka Bang	π, forest	df & ef, during heavy SWM rains, seen at Madhupur National Park in June 1980
10	<i>Uperodon systoma</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Marbled Balloon Frog	Chitrito Photka Bang	?	doubtful occurrence in ef of SE
Ranidae					
11	<i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Skipper Frog/Indian Skipping Frog	Kotkoti Bang	vc, w	All over including the most polluted drains in Dhaka City
12	<i>Euphlyctis hexadactylus</i> (Lesson, 1834)	Green Frog/Green Pond Frog/Indian Green Frog	Sabuj Bang	π, water forest	brackish water, restricted to a few ponds at Chandpai in the SB, occurrence elsewhere needs verification, [en] in B' desh
13	<i>Hoplobatrachus crassus</i> (Jerdon, 1853)	Jerdon's Bull Frog	Jardoner Kola Bang	? dd	sight or specimen record needed

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
14	<i>Hoplobatrachus tigrinus</i> (Daudin, 1802)	Bull Frog/ Indian Bull Frog	Kola Bang/ Sona Bang/ Bhawa Bang	vc, w	"All over, active during SWM, declining [vu]# some Bangladeshi scientists still write "Rana tigrina", although tigrina is actually an incorrect spelling of tigrina that has now become tigrinus
15	<i>Limnonectes limnocharis</i> (Gravenhorst, 1829)	Cricket Frog	Jhi-ji Bang	vc, w	found even in tiny puddles after SWM where water lasts for a night or so
16	<i>Limnonectes laticeps</i> (Boulenger, 1882)	Flat-headed Frog	Chaptamatha Bang	? dd	reported by Dutta (1997)
17	<i>Occidozyga lima</i> (Gravenhorst, 1829)	Puddle Frog/ Bleating Frog	Chagaldaka Bang	f, forest	in ef of SE, only during SWM first record from Bangladesh by Khan (1998) so far populations found at Whykeong and Teknaf in CB
18	<i>Rana alicola</i> Boulenger, 1882 [<i>Rana tyleri</i> (Theobald, 1870)]	Boulenger's Frog/ High Altitude Frog**	Pana Bang	uc, w	near water and amongst aquatic plants, toes partly webbed, tips of all digits swollen into discs
19	<i>Rana erythraea</i> (Schlegel, 1837)	Leaf Frog **	Pata Bang	vc, w	in marshy areas and forest under- growth
20	<i>Rana taipehensis</i> Van Denberg, 1909	Leaf Frog **	Taipar Pata Bang	? ?	possibly as above, not yet sighted
21	<i>Tomopterna breviceps</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Short-headed Burrowing Frog	Gortobashi Bang	? dd	sight or specimen record needed

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
Rhacophoridae					
22	<i>Philautus</i> sp.	Castanet Frog/ Bush frog	Jhobashi Bang	? dd	doubtfully in ef, specimen record needed
23	<i>Polypedates leucomystax</i> (Gravenhorst, 1829)	Tree Frog/Six-lined Tree Frog **	Dorakata Gechho Bang	c, w	in vegetated areas, most active during SWM
24	<i>Polypedates maculatus</i> (Gray, 1834)	Maculated Tree Frog/ Common Indian Tree Frog **	Gechho Bang	c, w	as with the preceding species
25	<i>Rhacophorus jerdonii</i> (Günther, 1875)	Jerdon's Tree Frog	Jerdoner Gechho Bang	? dd	in ef, sight and specimen records needed
26	<i>Rhacophorus maximus</i> Günther, 1858	Large Tree Frog	Bora Gechho Bang	? vu	as above

Class Reptilia

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
Order Testudines[Chelonia]					
Bataguridae					
* All species names of reptiles are based on Das (2003)					
1	<i>Batagur baska baska</i> (Gray, 1830)	Common River Terrapin/ Common Batagur*	Bora Kaitta / Boro Ketho	rr, river	only in the SB, [CITES-I, RDB-e]
2	<i>Cuora amboinensis</i> kamaroma Rummmler & Fritz, 1991	Domed Malayan Box Turtle / South Asian Box Turtle	Deeba Kasim/ Diba Kochchhop	rr, forest	denuded forest in CB, Erabi Beel in Sylt (Anisuzzaman Khan, pers. Comm.) First record by Khan (1982)
3	<i>Cyclemis oldhamii</i> Gray, 1863	Asian Leaf Turtle/ Freshwater Tortoise	Pata Kasim	f, forest	in ef of SE
4	<i>Geoclemys hamiltonii</i> (Gray, 1831)	Spotted Pond Turtle	Kalo Kasim/ Mogom	uc, w	Declining population [CITES-I]
5	<i>Hardella thurjii</i> (Gray, 1831)	Crowned River Turtle/ Brahminy River Turtle	Kali Kaitta	c, w	Declining population
6	<i>Kachuga dhongoka</i> (Gray, 1832)	Three Striped Roof turtle **	Dhoor Kasim	uc, river	Padma-Jamuna and larger rivers, Declining population

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
7	<i>Kachuga kachuga</i> (Gray, 1831) river	Red-crowned Roof Turtle **	Aadi Kori Kaitta (all roofed turtles are known as Kori Kaitta in B'desh)	uc,	locally exploited for meat, Declining population
8	<i>Pangshura smithii</i> (Gray, 1863)	Brown Roofed Turtle /Common Brown Roofed Turtle **	Bora Kori Kaitta/Vaital Kaitta	uc, river	Padma, locally exploited for meat, Declining population
9	<i>Pangshura sylhetensis</i> (Jerdon, 1870)	Sylhet Roofed Turtle #	Syleti Kori Kaitta	rr, ef	in forested areas of NE and SE, one specimen on 6 Dec 1982 from Sylt, # the species should be called Sylhet Roof Turtle because of its species name ""sylhetensis"" instead of Assam Roofed Turtle
10	<i>Pangshura tectum</i> (Bell in: Gray, 1831)	Roofed Turtle/Indian Roofed Turtle **	Kori Kaitta	vc, w	heavily exploited both for local and international market, Declining population [CITES-I]
11	<i>Pangshura tentoria</i> (Gray, 1834)	Median Roofed Turtle /Indian Tent Turtle	Majhari Kaitta	c, w	heavily exploited both for local and international market, Declining population
12	<i>Melanocheilus tricarinata</i> (Blyth, 1856)	Three Keeled Land Tortoise/Tricarinate Hill Turtle *	Shila Kossop	uc, w	in NB and Kudum Cave, Whykeong, Teknaf in CB, exploited for meat and export, Declining population[CITES-I]
13	<i>Melanocheilus trijuga</i> (Schweigger, 1812)	Pond Tortoise/ Indian Black Turtle *	Kalo Kossop	uc, wetl	in C, NE, involved in localized meat trade, blackish without any yellow, (CI-38cm)

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks [CITES, RDB]
14	<i>Morenia petersi</i> (Anderson, 1879)	Yellow Turtle/ Eyed Turtle	Haldey Kaitta	c, w	heavily exploited both for local and international market
Cheloniidae					
15	<i>Caretta caretta</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Loggerhead/Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Mugur-matha Samudrik Kasim	uc, BB	SB to SM, Declining population, [CITES-I, RDB-V]
16	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Green Turtle	Sabuj Samudrik Kasim	c, BB	SB to SM, Declining population [CITES-I, RDB-E]
17	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Hawksbill Turtle	Egol-thonti Samudrik Kasim	uc, BB	SB to SM, Declining population [CITES-I, RDB-E]
18	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> (Eschscholtz, 1829)	Olive Ridley Turtle	Jalpaironga Samudrik Kasim	c, BB	SB to SM, Declining population [CITES-I, RDB-E]
Dermochelyidae					
19	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (Vandelli, 1761)	Leatherback Turtle/ Luth	Brihattama Samudrik Kasim	rr, BB	SB to SM Declining population [CITES-I, RDB-E]
Testudinidae					
20	<i>Indotestudo elongata</i> (Blyth, 1853)	Elongated Tortoise	Halud Pahari Kossop/ Pahari Holdey Kochehhop	uc, forest	NE & SE hill forest, heavily exploited by ethnic people, Declining population [CITES-II]

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks [CITES, RDB]
21	<i>Manouria emys phayrei</i> (Blyth, 1853)	Burmese Black Tortoise/ Asian Giant Tortoise	Pahari Kossop	rr, forest	Greater CHT hills, ethnic people exploit it for meat, Declining population [CITES-II]
Trionychidae					
22	<i>Aspideretes gangeticus</i> (Cuvier, 1825)	Ganges Soft Shell Turtle *	Khalua Kasim	c, w	in major rivers, heavily exploited for local and foreign meat trade and live export [CITES-I]
23	<i>Aspideretes hurum</i> (Gray, 1831)	Peacock-marked Soft Shell Turtle *	Dhum Kasim	vc, w	in almost all the rivers, , heavily exploited for international and local meat trade and live export [CITES-I]
24	<i>Aspideretes nigricans</i> (Anderson, 1875)	Bostami Turtle/ Black Soft Shell Turtle	Bostami Kasim	rr, Cig	localized in a few ponds at Cig town [CITES-I, RDB-E]
25	<i>Chitra indica</i> (Gray, 1831)	Narrow-headed Soft Shell/ Asiatic Soft Shell Turtle	Sim Kasim / Chitra Kasim	uc, river	mostly in Jamuna, also Padma, Declining population
26	<i>Lissemys punctata</i> (Bonnaterre, 1789)	Spotted Flap Shell Turtle/ Indian Flapshell Turtle	Shundi Kasim	vc, water	almost in all freshwater bodies, heavily exploited for trade, Declining population
27	<i>Pelochelys cantorii</i> Gray, 1864	Cantor's Soft Shell Turtle/ Asian Giant Softshell Turtle	Jata Kasim / Brihodakar Kasim	f, river	only larger rivers, including SB, Declining population

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
Order Lacertilia					
Agamidae					
28	<i>Calotes emma</i> Gray, 1845	Emma Gray's Forest Lizard**	Bonabashi Roktochusha	f, forest	forests in N & E Declining population
29	<i>Calotes jerdoni</i> Günther, 1871	Jerdons Forest Lizard Garden Lizard**	Sabuj Roktochusha	f, forest	ef in NE & SE first saw in May '88 at Banglabandha, Panchagarh (old Dinajpur District, NB
30	<i>Calotes versicolor</i> (Daudin, 1802)	Common Garden Lizard	Rokto-chusha	vc, w	commonest of the Calotes
31	<i>Draco blanfordii</i> Boulenger, 1885	Blanford's Flying Lizard	Uranta Tiktiki	uc, ef,	only sp. of gliding lizard so far noted from the country, recorded from Chittagong and Sylhet (Khan, 1987) one specimen in Sylhet Univ. College (MC College) Declining population
Gekkonidae					
32	<i>Gekko gekko</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Tokay Gecko	Tokkhak/ Tokhha Shap/ Toit-tang in Ctg. CHT	c, w	in forests and human dwellings,
33	<i>Hemidactylus bowringii</i> (Gray, 1845)	Bowring's House Gecko **	Choto Tiktiki	uc, w	E (ast) of Jamuna, forest & near it

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
34	<i>Hemidactylus brookii</i> Gray, 1845	Brook's House Gecko/ Spotted Indian House Gecko **	Khoshkhoshey Tiktiki	c, w	common on trees than houses,
35	<i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i> Rüppell, 1835	Yellow-bellied House Gecko/Yellow-Green House Gecko	Goda Tiktiki	c, w	in W(est) of Jamuna, found a few specimens at Dhaka, possibly accidental introduction
36	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> Duméril & Bibron, 1836	Common House Lizard **	Dakchara Tiktiki/ Mosrin Tiktiki	vc, w	both houses and woods
Scincidae					
37	<i>Lygosoma albopunctata</i> (Gray, 1846)	White-spotted Supple Skink	Sadafootajukta Nomonio Anjon	f, ef	distribution uncertain
38	<i>Lygosoma punctata</i> (Gmelin, 1799)	Spotted Supple Skink	Chitrito Anjon	rr, ef	uncertain about present status
39	<i>Lygosoma vosmaerii</i> (Gray, 1839)	Vosmaer's Supple Skink	Nomonio Anjon	f, ef	? distribution uncertain
40	<i>Mabuya carinata</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Common Skink/ Keel'd Grass Skink	Anjoni/Anjon/ Anchil	vc, w	population increased in some parts
41	<i>Mabuya dissimilis</i> (Hallowell, 1857)	Stripped Grass Skink	Dorakata Anjon	rr, forest	forests of N(orth)

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks [CITES, RDB]
42	<i>Mabuya macularius</i> (Blyth, 1853)	Bronze Grass Skink	Tamatey Anjon	rr, forest	vg of N
43	<i>Sphenomorphus maculatus</i> (Blyth, 1853)	Spotted Litter Skink	Buno Anchil	uc, ef	recorded (photo) from Kudum Cave area, Whykeong, Teknaf, CB
Varanidae					
44	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i> (Daudin, 1802)	Bengal Monitor/ Grey Monitor	Gui Shap	vc, w	forests and villages regularly persecuted for the skin trade, [CITES-I]
45	<i>Varanus flavescens</i> (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827)	Yellow Monitor	Sona Gui/ Haldey Gui/ Hungui	vc, w	more common in villages and near water during SWM, [CITES-I]
46	<i>Varanus salvator</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	Water Monitor /Ring Lizard	Ram Gadi/ Kalo Gui	c, coast	coastal area and SB, [CITES-II]
Order-Serpentes [Squamata] Family-Typhlopidae					
47	<i>Ramphotyphlops braminus</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Common Blind Snake/ Brahminy Blind Snake/ Brahminy Worm Snake	Bamon Dumukha Shap	c, w	moist areas with vegetation, often in flowerpots
48	<i>Typhlops diardii</i> Schlegel, 1839	Diard's Blind Snake/ Large Worm Snake	Mota/ Brihat Dumukha Shap	uc, forest	in ef of SE disappearing due to habitat loss

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks [CITES, RDB]
49	<i>Typhlops porrectus</i> Stoliczka, 1871	Slender Blind Snake/ Slender Worm Snake	Shoru Dumukha Shap	c, w	in vegetated areas, number going down due to habitat loss
Acrochordidae					
50	<i>Acrochordus granulatus</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Western Wart Snake/ File Snake	Anchil Shap/ Renti Shap/ Ukha Shap	rr, SWM	I have not seen it during the last 2 decades, Mukherjee (1975) recorded it from Indian SB
Boidae					
51	<i>Eryx conicus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Common Sand Boa	Balu Bora	?	Mukherjee (1975) reported it from Khulna
52	52a. <i>Python molurus molurus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) 52b. <i>Python molurus bivittatus</i> Kuhl, 1820	Indian Rock Python Burmese Rock Python	AjogarAjogar	a.uc, w, b, c, w	a) common in SB W of Jamuna, b) in ef E of Jamuna; fast disappearing due to skin, flesh and pet trade CITES-I, RDB-V
53	<i>Python reticulatus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Reticulated Python Moyal Shap	Golbahar/	uc	E of Jamuna in deep forests only, esp. in ef; fast disappearing due to skin, flesh and pet trade# First recorded by Khan (1982)
Colubridae					
54	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	Common Vine Snake/ Sutanoli Shap/ Lokhinderar Shap	Laodoga Shap	c, w	fast disappearing due to skin and pet trade

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
55	<i>Ahaetulla prasina</i> (Boie, 1827)	Short Nosed Vine Snake	Bhotanak Laodoga Shap	rr, forest	in ef and SB
56	<i>Amphiesma stolatum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Striped Keelback	Dora Shap	c, w	near vegetation and water
57	<i>Argyrogena fasciolatus</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Banded Racer	Dorajukta Reser Shap	f, ef	Declining fast
58	<i>Atretium schistosum</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Olive Keelback	Mete Shap / Maitta Shap	vc, w	mostly aquatic, in ponds, marshes
59	<i>Boiga cyanea</i> (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)	Green Cat Snake	Sabuj Phonimonosha	uc, ef	habitat loss main cause of decline
60	<i>Boiga ocellata</i> Kroon, 1973	Ocellated Cat Snake	Chokkhufoot ajukta Phonimonosha	f, ef	habitat loss main cause of decline
61	<i>Boiga gokol</i> (Gray, 1834)	Eastern Cat Snake / *** Eastern Gamma	Sabuj Phonimonosha	uc, NB-SE	in vg and forests, habitat loss main cause of decline
62	<i>Boiga multomaculata</i> (Boie, 1827)	Large Spotted Cat Snake	Chiritto Phonimonosha	f, forest	in vg and forests, habitat loss main cause of decline
63	<i>Boiga ochraceus</i> (Günther, 1868)	Tawny Cat Snake	Khoiri Phonimonosha	uc, w	wooded areas, habitat loss main cause of decline

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
64	<i>Boiga trigonata</i> (Schneider, 1802)	Common Cat Snake ***	Sadharan Phonimonosha	f, forest	used to be not uncommon but currently not so in CHT, also N, E, habitat loss main cause of decline
65	<i>Cerberus rynchops</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Dog-faced Water Snake	Jolbora Shap	c, coast	SB to SM in mangroves, also River Naaf in CB,
66	<i>Chrysopelea ornata</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Ornate Flying Snake/ Golden Flying Snake	Kalnagimi/ Urantta Shap	c, forest	in forests, mostly SB, habitat loss main cause of decline
67	<i>Dendrelaphis cyanochloris</i> (Wall, 1921)	Blue-Green Bronzeback Tree Snake	Jolpai Gecho Shap	rr, ef	Disappearing fast
68	<i>Dendrelaphis pictus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	Painted Bronzeback Tree Snake **	Dora Gecho Shap	c, vg, ef	population declining due to loss of habitat
69	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Common Bronzeback Tree Snake **	Gecho Shap/ Bet Anchra	c, vg, ef	habitat loss main cause of decline
70	<i>Elachistodon westermanni</i> Reinhardt, 1863	Indian Egg-eater	Dimkhor Shap	rr, forest	N and ef, type locality is from Rangpur, NB, but no sight record during the past 4 decades CITES-II
71	<i>Coelognathus helena</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Common Trinket Snake **	Helena Dudhraj Shap	rr, ef	habitat loss main cause of decline#First reported by Khan 1987 & 1992 (p.119) & Pictures in p118 of 1996,

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
72	<i>Coelognathus radiatus</i> (Schlegel, 1837)	Copper Head Trinket Snake**	Dudraaj/ Arball	uc, w	vg and forests, skin trade takes a heavy annual toll
73	<i>Enhydryis enhydryis</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Common Smooth Water Snake	Paina Shap/ Huria	vc, w	freshwater bodies, many in wet of greater Sylt and Mymensingh, a lot dying in fish traps and nets
74	<i>Enhydryis sieboldii</i> (Schlegel, 1837)	Siebold's Smooth Water Snake	Joldhora Shap/ Sibolder Joloj Shap	c, w	in freshwater ponds, lakes and marshes, Declining fast
75	<i>Fordonia leucobalia</i> (Schlegel, 1837)	White-bellied Mangrove Snake	Sundari Shap/ Sundarborer Mete Shap	rr, coast	mangroves? information lacking, likely to be in the SB
76	<i>Gerardia prevostianus</i> (Eydoux & Gervais, 1837)	Glossy Marsh Snake	Chochokey Shap/ Mohonar Shap	uc, w	coastal mangroves, rarely in inland rivers, no recent sight record
77	<i>Liopeltis calamaria</i> (Günther, 1858)	Lesser Stripe-necked Snake	Doraghar Shap	f, ef	among leaf litters, no recent sight record
78	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Common Wolf Snake **	Sadharan Gharginni Shap	c, w	prefers human dwellings in the countryside, cattle-sheds, very rare
79	<i>Lycodon fasciatus</i> (Anderson, 1879)	Banded Wolf Snake **	Boloyjukta Gharginni Shap	uc, ef	near human habitations, declining fast

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
80	<i>Lycodon jara</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Yellow-speckled Wolf Snake **	Gharginni Shap	uc, w	near human habitations, declining fast
81	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Green Keelback Snake	Sabuj Dhora	f, ef	in CHT, becoming rare
82	<i>Oligodon albocinctus</i> (Cantor, 1839)	White-barred Kukri Snake **	Sadadagwala Bonkaraj	uc, w	forests and vg, becoming rare
83	<i>Oligodon arnensis</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Common Kukri Snake **	Sadharan Bonkaraj/ Kukri Shap	uc, w	forests and vg, becoming rare
84	<i>Oligodon cinereus</i> (Günther, 1864)	Black-barred Kukri Snake **	Kalodagwala Bonkaraj	uc, w	forests and vg, becoming rare
85	<i>Oligodon cyclurus</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Cantor's Kukri Snake **	Kukri Shap/ Bankaraj	c, w	forests and vg, becoming rare
86	<i>Oligodon dorsalis</i> (Gray, 1835)	Spot-tailed Kukri Snake **	Dorajukta Bonkaraj	uc, w	forests and vg, becoming rare
87	<i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i> (Jerdon, 1853)	Russell's Kukri Snake/ Streaked Kukri Snake **	Raseler Kukri Shap	uc, w	forests and vg, becoming rare
88	<i>Oligodon theobaldi</i> (Günther, 1868)	Mandalay Kukri Snake **	Mandaloy Kukri Shap	f, ef	forests and vg, becoming rare

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
89	<i>Pareas macularius</i> Blyth, 1868	Darjeeling Snail-eater	Darjeeling Shamuk-khor	f, ef	forests and vg, becoming rare
90	<i>Pareas monticolus</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Assam Snail-eater	Asamer Shamuk-khor	f, ef	forests and vg, no recent sight record
91	<i>Psammodynastes pulverulentus</i> (Boie, 1827)	Mock Viper	Pahari Shap	f, ef	forests and vg, no recent sight record
92	<i>Ptyas korros</i> (Schlegel, 1837)	Indo-Chinese Rat Snake/ Eastern Rat Snake	Jolpaironga Daraj Shap	uc, ef	New record from Chittagong by Mohd. Farid Ahsan Pers. Comm.), also CB and CHT
93	<i>Ptyas mucosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Rat Snake/ Western rat Snake	Daraj/ Dhaman	c, w	2 decades back it was common even in Dhaka city, its now rare due to excessive exploitation, villagers kill considering it to be a cousin of the cobra
94	<i>Ptyas nigromar- ginata</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Green Rat Snake	Sabuj Daraj	rr, ef	in deep forest of CHT, no recent sight record
95	<i>Rhabdophis subminiatus</i> (Schlegel, 1837)	Red-necked Keelback	Laldora Shap	c, ef	Found on in ef of E
96	<i>Sibynophis sagittaria</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Cantor's Blackheaded Snake	Mathakalo Shap	uc, en	vg, becoming rare# Reported by Khan (1982) based on a live specimen caught from the Rajshahi University campus

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks[CITES, RDB]
97	<i>Xenochrophis cerasogaster</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Dark Bellied Marsh Snake	Kalo Mete Dora Shap	c, w	in marshes, beels and haors, becoming rare
98	<i>Xenochrophis piscator</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Checkered Keelback	Dhora Shap	vc, w	near water, including sewage drains in Dhaka city
Eliapidae – all highly venomous species					
99	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Common Krait/ Common Indian Krait	Kal Keotey	c, w	Present status uncertain, deadliest of our venomous snakes
100	<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Banded Krait	Shakini Shap/ Shonkhini Shap	uc, w	Becoming rare, deadly venomous
101	<i>Bungarus lividus</i> Cantor, 1839	Lesser Black Krait ***	Chhoto Kalo / Keotey	rr, en, dd	earlier report shows it to be present in Rangpur, current information insufficient, deadly venomous
102	<i>Bungarus niger</i> Wall, 1909	Black Krait ***	Kalo Keotey	rr, en, dd	Khan (1982) recorded it from tanned skin sold in Dhaka market, Anisuzzaman Khan (pers. comm.) collected first live specimen from the Soondarban in 2003, deadly venomous
103	<i>Bungarus sindanus</i> wall, 1907	Wall's Krait	Waler Keotey	? dd	N, E, sf, uncertain status, deadly venomous

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat,Remarks[CITES, RDB]
104	<i>Sinomiturus maclellandi</i> (Reinhardt, 1844)	MacClelland's Coral Snake	Probal Shap	dd, ef	Uncertain status deadly venomous
105	<i>Callophis melanurus</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Slender Coral Snake	Pathor Shap	f, ef	ef of Chittagong venomous# First reported by Khan (1982) and see Khan (1987, 1992, 1996)
106	<i>Naja kaouthia</i> Lesson, 1831 [<i>Naja naja kaouthia</i> (Lesson, 1831)]	Monocellate Cobra/ Bengal Cobra	Gokhra Shap	c, w	disappearing due to excessive catching to meet the pet-trade and snake-charming requirements, also skin trade, deadly venomous
107	<i>Naja naja</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) [<i>Coluber naja</i> Linnaeus, 1758]	Spectacled Cobra/ Binocellate Cobra / Indian Cobra	Khoia Gokhra/ Khorm Paia/ Choshma- chhap Gokhora	uc, w	As above, deadly venomous
108	<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i> (Cantor, 1836)	King Cobra/ Hamadryad	Raj Gokhra/ Shankha-choor Padma Gokhora	c/uc, forest	c in SB, uc in ef, not in sf, type locality is the SB, number dwindling due to excessive killing for the skin trade, deadly venomous

Hydrophiidae [Elapidae: Hydrophiinae] all deadly venomous snakes

109	<i>Enhydrina schistosa</i> , (Daudin, 1803) [<i>Hydrophis schistosus</i> Daudin]	Hook-nosed/ Beaked Sea Snake	Barshi-nak Samudrik Shap	vc, coast	coastal water, SM, lots get killed when caught in fishing nets, deadly venomous
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Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat,Remarks[CITES, RDB]
110	<i>Hydrophis caeruleus</i> Shaw, 1802	Many-toothed Sea Snake/ Malacca Sea Snake**	Chai-ronga Samudrik Shap/ Malikka Samudrik Shap	c, coast	Hydrophis spp. coast, SB, many are killed in the fishing nets, deadly venomous
111	<i>Hydrophis cantoris</i> Günther, 1864	Cantor's Narrow-headed Sea Snake**	Kantoror Shoru- matha Samudrik Shap	c, coast	SB to SM, as above, deadly venomous
112	<i>Hydrophis cyanocinctus</i> Daudin, 1803	Annulated Sea Snake **	Kalo-Holud Boloyukta Samudrik Shap	uc, coast	SB and coastal water, type locality is the 'Sandarbans', deadly venomous
113	<i>Hydrophis fasciatus</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Banded Sea Snake **	Lati Shap	c, BB	also coast, deadly venomous
114	<i>Hydrophis gracilis</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Common Narrow-headed Sea Snake**	Sadharan Shoru- matha Samudrik Shap	uc, coast	SB, coast, deadly venomous
115	<i>Hydrophis nigrocinctus</i> Daudin, 1803	Black-headed Sea Snake **	Mathakalo Samudrik Shap	c, coast	SB, also coast, its type locality is the 'Sandarbans', deadly venomous
116	<i>Hydrophis obscurus</i> Daudin, 1803	Estuarine Sea Snake	Mohonar Samudrik Shap	c, coast	SB & estuaries. its type locality is the 'Sandarbans', deadly venomous

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks [CITES, RDB]
117	<i>Lapemis curtus</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Malabar /Short Sea Snake	Boitha Tebi Shap/ Betye-o-Mota Samudrik Shap	f, coast	Coast, BB, deadly venomous
118	<i>Laticauda laticauda</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Common Amphibious Sea Snake/ Common Sea Krait **	Sadharan Ubhachar Shap/ Sagorer Keotey	rr, coast	Coast, SM, deadly venomous
119	<i>Laticauda colubrina</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Colubrine Amphibious Sea Snake/ Yellow-lipped Sea Krait**	Halud-thont Ubhachar Shap	f, coast	coast, SM, deadly venomous
120	<i>Pelamis platurus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Black and Yellow Sea Snake/ Pelagic Sea Snake	Rangila/ Kalo-halud Samudrik Shap	uc, BB	First report by Khan(1987, 1992). Pelagic species, dead and young might be found near shore, deadly venomous
Viperidae					
121	<i>Daboia russelii</i> (Shaw & Nodder, 1797)	Russell's Viper	Chandro-bora/ Bora/Uloo Bora	uc, w	more c in drier Rajshahi Division, killed for its skin that has good value in market, deadly venomous
122	<i>Ovophis monticola</i> (Günther, 1864)	Blotched Pit Viper	Chhopjukta Sabuj Bora	?ef, dd	possibly in CHT, no recent sight record, deadly venomous
123	<i>Trimeresurus albolabris</i> Gray, 1842	Green Pit Viper **	Sabuj Bora	c, w	In forests and teat estates, venomous and dangerous

Sl.No	Scientific Name	English Name	Bengali Name	Species status	Distribution, Habitat, Remarks [CITES, RDB]
124	<i>Trimeresurus erythrusus</i> Cantor, 1839	Spot-tailed Pit Viper **	Chitrito-Lej Sabuj Bora	c, w	mostly in forests, venomous and dangerous
125	<i>Trimeresurus gramineus</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Bamboo Pit Viper**	Bansh Bora/ Viper Shap	c, forest	in ef & SB, venomous and dangerous
126	<i>Trimeresurus popeiorum</i> (Smith, 1937)	Pope's Pit Viper**	Poper Sabuj Bora	f, ef	in NE and SE, venomous and dangerous
Crocodylia : Crocodylidae					
127	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i> * Lesson, 1831	Mugger/ Marsh Crocodile **	Mithapanir Kumir	Extinct in nature	Extinct in the wild, 2-3 specimens in Dhaka Zoo and a shrine at Bagerhat District CITES-I, RDB-V, dangerous
128	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i> Schneider, 1801	Estuarine Crocodile/ Saltwater Crocodile**	Lonapanir Kumir	uc, SB	Restricted to SB, Population less than 200 CITES-II, RDB-V, dangerous
Gavialidae : longest, slender snout, male's snout with a bulbous tip					
129	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	Gharial	Ghorial/ Baishal/ Ghot Kumir	rr, rivers	extinct in the wild, a few specimens might stray from Indian rivers CITES-I, RDB-E



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NOTES ON ANURAN FAUNA OF ACHANAKMAR
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY,
(BILASPUR, CHHATTISGARH)

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Abstract

The paper deals with the study of Anuran fauna of Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh, which includes nine species pertaining to nine genera and four families. All the species are new record to the fauna of Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Introduction

Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary (AWLS) is located in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh, which is named after Achanakmar village. The sanctuary is situated in the eastern part of Maikal hills of Satpura range and lies between 22° 24" to 22° 35" N and 80° 55" to 81° 35" E longitudes. Total area of the sanctuary is 553.286 sq. km. The forest of the sanctuary is mainly Tropical Moist Deciduous type having the Sal forests, Mixed Forests, Bamboo Forests and Teak plantations.

Hitherto, no information on faunal diversity of Achanakmar is available except on mammals and birds. While working on faunal diversity of Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary during the months of June and July 2004 by the survey team of Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur, the amphibian fauna of the sanctuary was also studied. During the survey, total nine species of anurans pertaining to nine genera are identified. The systematic account, details of material collected and geographic distribution of all the species are also incorporated.



SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Class: AMPHIBIA

Order: ANURA

I - Family: RANIDAE

1. *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* (Schneider)
(Indian Skipping Frog)

1799. *Rana cyanophlyctis*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.* 1:37

1920. *Rana cyanophlyctis*, Boulenger, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 20:12-15.

Material examined: 3 exs.; 2exs., Amarkantak road, Chhapparwa, 9/VI/04 Reg. No.V-3901 and ex., Atariya Forests, 19/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3902, Coll. A. Singh & party.

Measurements: Snout to vent length 41-60 mm.

Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - It is common throughout India from the base of Himalaya to Southern part of the country. Also Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal.

2. *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin)
(Indian Bull Frog)

1803. *Rana tigerina*, Daudin, *Hist. Rain. Gren. Crap.*: 64.

1920. *Rana tigerina*, Boulenger, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 20:17-23.

Material examined: Several specimens observed in different localities of AWLS, a tank near Chhapparwa Guest house and temporary water holes near Atariya.

Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - This is common species throughout India from north to south. Also Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, South China and Taiwan.

3. *Indirana leithii* (Boulenger)
(Leiths Frog or Boulenger Brown Frog)

1888. *Rana leithii*, Boulenger, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 6(2): 506



Material examined: 4 exs., Diyawan Pahari, 11/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3903, Coll. A. Singh & party.

Measurements: Snout to vent length 17-21 mm.

Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - India: Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

4. *Limnonectes limnocharis* (Boie)
(Cricket Frog)

1835 *Rana limnocharis* (Boie) Wiegmann, *N. Acta. Ac. Leop. Carol*, 17 (i): 255.

1920. *Rana limnocharis*, Boulenger, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 20: 28-35.

Material examined: 3 exs., 1 ex., Satapani, 09/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3904, 1 ex., Amarkantak road, Chhapparwa, 09/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3905 and 1 ex., Manjhi Dongri, 07/VI/04 Reg. No. V-3906, Coll. A. Singh & party.

Measurements: Snout to vent length 18-34 mm.

Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - India: This is widely distributed in India and found in almost all the biotopes. Also in Eastern Asia from Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China and Japan.

5. *Tomopterna breviceps* (Schneider)
(Short-Headed Burrowing Frog)

1799. *Rana breviceps* Schneider, *Hist. Amph.* 1:40

1920. *Rana breviceps*, Boulenger, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 20: 103 - 105.

Material Examined: 4 exs.; 1 ex., Manjhi Dongri, 07/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3907 and 3 exs., Amarkantak road, Chhapparwa, 09/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3908. Coll. A. Singh & party.

Measurements: Snout to vent length 38-46 mm.



Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - India: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal. Also Sri Lanka, Nepal and Myanmar.

II - Family: MICROHYLIDAE

6. *Uperodon systoma* (Schneider)
(Marbled Balloon Frog)

1841. *Rana systoma*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*: 144

1934. *Uperodon systoma*, Parker, *Mon. Micro.*: 75

Material examined: 2 exs., 1 ex., Amarkantak road, Chhapparwa, 09/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3898 and 1 ex., Manjhi Dongri, 07/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3899, Coll. A. Singh & party.

Measurements: Snout to vent length 38-47 mm

Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - India: Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.

7. *Microhyla ornata* (Dumeril & Bibron)
(Ornate Narrow-Mouthed Frog)

1841. *Engystoma ornatum* Dumril & Bibron, *Herpet. Gen.*, 8:745

1934. *Microhyla ornata*, Parker, *Monograph Microhylidae* : 139-141.

Material examined: 4 exs., Atariya Forests, 17/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3900, Coll. A. Singh & Party.

Measurements: Snout to vent length 18-20 mm.

Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - India: This species is widely distributed in India and found all over the plains of country. Also in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, South China, South-East Asia and Taiwan.



III- Family: RHACOPHORIDAE

8. *Polypedates maculatus* (Gray) (Common Tree Frog)

1832. *Hyla maculata*, Gray III *Indian Zool. i*, pl.82. Fig.1.
1931. *Rhacophorous maculatus*, Ahl, *Das Tierreich*, 55, Anura III:
133-134.

Material examined: 3 exs, 1 ex., Kevachi., 22/VI/04, Reg. No.V-3909; 2 exs. Manjhi Dongri, 07/VI/04, Reg. No. V-3910, Coll. A.Singh & party.

Measurements: Snout to vent length 41-57 mm.

Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - India: The species is widely distributed in south India and plains of north India in general. Also in Sri Lanka.

IV - Family: BUFONIDAE

9. *Bufo melanostictus* Schneider (Common Asian toad)

1799. *Bufo melanostictus*, Schneider. *Hist. Amph.* 1:216
1890. *Bufo melanostictus*, Boulenger. *Fauna Brit. India*, Rept. & Batr.: 505-507.

Material examined: 2 exs., Amarkantak road, Chhapparwa, Reg. No.V-3897, Coll.,A.Singh & party.

Measurements: Snout to vent length 51-55 mm.

Distribution: AWLS: As above, *Elsewhere* - India: This is the commonest toad found all over the Indian plains. Also Sri Lanka, Southern China, Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.



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RANDOM HARVEST

Crawling up the ladder!

A report from Guardian Newspapers Ltd. published in the *Hindu Business Line* of Dec. 7, 2004 says that in a global poll on the world's favourite animal, conducted by the satellite TV Station Animal Planet, the snake has come off with the sixth rank.

The first five are the tiger, the dog, the dolphin, the horse and the lion in that order. The snake is ahead of animals like the elephant, the chimp, the orangutan and the whale.

Not a mean distinction for the snake considering that it had all along been relegated to the ranks of the creepy-crawlies!

The cane mutiny

'Random Harvest' in the Oct.- Dec.1995 issue of *Cobra* gave an account of the ravages caused in Australia by the introduced cane toad (*Bufo marinus*). Now, the *Hindu Business Line* of 21st Nov. 2004, quoting Reuters, speaks of hundreds of thousands of this species having invaded the Arakwal National Park in Australia. They were in such large numbers that to a local ecologist "the ground seemed to move". The report describes the cane toad as "one of Australia's worst environmental pests".



The Chinese puzzled

The Chinese have drawn a lot of well-deserved admiration for their technological innovations, commercial skills and aggressive global marketing strategies. But they seem to have hit a roadblock when it comes to crocodile farming. Breeder crocodiles in tens of thousands were imported from Thailand a decade ago and a host of measures introduced to promote a massive production of crocodile meat and leather. But the crocodiles have not taken kindly to this. The cooler climate, the crocodiles' refusal to eat anything but expensive chicken breasts and vulnerability to infections have kept their population down. Further, a problem of low levels of female fertility has been compounded by a lack of male libido.

Source: The New York Times News Service:
The Hindu, 24th Oct. 2004

The fungus disaster

An outbreak of the disease chitridiomycosis caused by a fungus of the chitrid family called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* in Europe, North and Central America, the Carribean and Africa has been responsible for huge declines in frog populations. The fungus affects the skin of adult amphibians and the mouth parts of their larvae. "Tadpoles carry (the fungus) but they're absolutely healthy. It's when they metamorphose into little froglets that they die instantly – as soon as they hop out of the pond". So says a report from Guardian Newspapers Ltd. published in the *Hindu* of 16th Oct. 2004.

The report also refers to a Global Amphibian Assessment, a study of the world's 5743 known amphibian species. One in three – a total of 1856 species – are threatened with extinction, the Assessment states. The latest count shows that 122 amphibian species have become extinct in the past 20 years.



More on caecilians from the Western Ghats

'Random Harvest' in *Cobra* of July-Sept. 2003 gave an account of the discovery by Varad Giri and his team from the Bombay Natural History Society of a new species of caecilian in the Western Ghats in 2003 and which has been named *Gegeneophis danieli*.

Now a bureau report in the *Hindu Business Line* of 9th Dec. 2004 refers to another discovery by Varad Giri and his team of a new caecilian species from the Satara district in the Western Ghats. It has been named *Indotyphus maharashtraensis*.

A report published in the *Hindu* of 22nd Oct. 2004 refers to a study of caecilians carried out in the Western Ghats by Oommen V. Oommen and his team from the University of Kerala which recorded a 57% increase in "caecilian diversity" (sightings of new species?) in the Western Ghats over the last six years. The secretive habit of caecilians makes their study challenging. So much so even caecilians inhabiting gardens and plantations, not to mention the forest areas, have often gone unnoticed.

The croakative male

The biologists at Bournemouth Oceanarium on England's south coast have learnt to locate tree frogs by making croaking sounds which provoke the frogs to croak back. They have a grievance though: only the males respond thus; the females remain stubbornly silent.

Source: *The Telegraph*, 31st July 2004.

Sundarban

In M.A.Reza Khan's paper published elsewhere in this issue, the name 'Sundarban' has been explained to mean the 'beautiful forest'. But another version has it that the word means 'the forest of *sundari* trees'. *Sundari* is the local name for a common mangrove species here: *Heriteria minor*.

- B.Vijayaraghavan

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