



A new species of endemic frog belonging to genus *Nannophrys* Günther, 1869 (Anura: Dicroglossinae) from Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The paper describes a new frog of the genus *Nannophrys* from Sri Lanka. The new species is distinguished from all other *Nannophrys* species by the following combination of morphological characters; distal subarticular tubercle and penultimate subarticular tubercles of 4th toe are well separated (vs. these two tubercles close in all other species of the genus). Supernumerary tubercle absent or smaller than penultimate subarticular tubercle on 4th toe. A hard sharp narrow symphy-sial knob and close pair of sharp apophyses on anterior edge of mandible and symphy-sial knob lower than two apophyses (vs. all other species with a blunt wider symphy-sial knob and wider pair of apophyses on anterior edge of mandible, and symphy-sial knob of same height or higher than two apophyses. Palmar tubercles comparatively smaller, inner palmar tubercle separated from outer palmar tubercle (vs. other relatives possess palmar tubercles comparatively large, inner palmar tubercle connected with outer palmar tubercle). Ecological and distributional notes for the new species are given.

Key words: Sri Lanka, *Nannophrys*, *Nannophrys naeyakai*, new species, Anura, Ranidae

Introduction

The frog genus *Nannophrys* has last been revised by Clarke (1983). This author recognized three species, all endemic to Sri Lanka. The recorded species are clearly separated by geographical distribution. *N. ceylonensis* Günther, 1869 is distributed only in the low and mid country wet zone of south-western Sri Lanka (Fig.1). *N. marmorata* Kirtisinghe, 1946 is mainly confined to the north-eastern flank of the Knuckles mountain range in the mid country intermediate zone (Dutta and Manamendra-Arachchi, 1996). The type locality of *N. guentheri* Boulenger, 1882 is cited as Ceylon, and Kirtisinghe (1957) has mentioned it from Labugama in the western province, but recent studies highlight the species to be extinct (Manamendra-Arachchi & Silva, 2004).

In this paper, we describe a new species of this genus, *Nannophrys naeyakai*, which is clearly distinguished from all species mentioned above.

Materials and methods

Nine specimens of *Nannophrys naeyakai* were collected; six from Kokagala (07° 24' N, 081° 12' E), Padiyatalawa of the Ampara District in the Eastern province and three from Yakunattela (07° 12' N, 081° 19' E), Bibile of the Monaragala District in the Uva province (Fig.1) on 13th March 2004 and 14th July 2005, respectively. The type series were fixed in absolute iso-propyl alcohol and one hour later, changed to 70% ethanol.