



A new species of *Philautus* Gistel (Amphibia: Anura: Rhacophoridae) from southern Western Ghats, India

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Abstract

A new species of the oriental shrub frog genus *Philautus* is described from Kakkayam Reserve Forest of Calicut district, Kerala state, in the southern Western Ghats. This species is distinguished from congeners by the combination of characters such as body small, elongate, squat and flat; head arched, wider than long; snout short rounded, equal or sub equal to diameter of eye; canthus rostralis rounded; tympanum indistinct but visible; eyes protruding, pupil with striking golden yellow dentition like marks; belly granular; vocal sac unpigmented; fleshy brown to cream yellow dorsum with two distinct golden yellow lateral bands bordered by dark brown from upper eyelid to the posterior part of flanks. A description of the advertisement calls and ecology and natural history notes are also provided for the new species which so far is only known from the type locality.

Key words: *Philautus ochlandrae* sp.nov., shrub frogs, Western Ghats, *Ochlandra setigera* Gamble, advertisement calls

Introduction

The shrub frog genus *Philautus* Gistel, characterized by endotrophic development, was revised in 2001 with 22 species in India, of which 11 species are from South India (Bossuyt & Dubois, 2001). Subsequently, ten new species of this genus were described from the Western Ghats (Bossuyt, 2002; Kuramoto & Joshy, 2003; Biju & Bossuyt, 2005a; Biju & Bossuyt, 2005b; Biju & Bossuyt, 2005c; Biju & Bossuyt, 2006; Gururaja *et al.* 2007). Amphibian taxonomy in general, and of the genus *Philautus* in particular has not been well studied in this region (Bossuyt, 2002; Biju & Bossuyt, 2005c). The Western Ghats being an amphibian diversity hotspot, many more new discoveries are awaiting. During our recent survey in the Western Ghats we came across an undescribed species of shrub frog of the genus *Philautus*, in Kakkayam Reserve Forest in the Waynaad hill ranges. We describe this species herein as *Philautus ochlandrae* sp.nov.

Materials and Methods

Measurements and terminology follow Bossuyt and Dubois (2001) as listed below, except for a few new characters (1-6, 10, 16, 19, 27, 34, 36 and 49). Morphological measurements were made using Mitutoyo Digimatic Caliper, taken to the nearest 0.1 mm and abbreviated as follows: 1. AG—axilla to groin distance; 2. BWBS—