



Two new species of *Megophrys* Kuhl & van Hasselt (Amphibia: Megophryidae), from western Thailand and southern Cambodia

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Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Megophrys* are described from historical collections presented by Malcolm A. Smith to The Natural History Museum, London, in the early twentieth century. These specimens were previously misidentified as *Megophrys parva*, a widespread Asian species apparently comprised of a species complex. *Megophrys damrei* **sp. nov.**, from the Bokor Plateau in the Cardamom Mountains of southern Cambodia and *Megophrys takensis* **sp. nov.**, from Ban Pa Che, Tak Province, in western Thailand, are herein distinguished morphologically from all congeners from their respective and neighbouring countries. These, or further specimens representing either species, do not appear to have been reported on by other authors in the past and the conservation status of the two new species remains to be assessed. An attempt to locate both species at and near their respective type localities was successful for *Megophrys takensis* **sp. nov.**, allowing the documentation of observations in the wild and live colouration. This study highlights the importance of examining historical museum collections often overlooked in recent decades by modern taxonomists.

Key words: *Xenophrys*, taxonomy, new species, Thailand, Cambodia, amphibian

Introduction

The genus *Megophrys* Kuhl & van Hasselt has received little attention by taxonomists in Southeast Asia in recent decades, with the majority of work being carried out in China, where diversity in this genus is higher. Since the review of Taylor (1962) of the amphibians of Thailand, one additional species of *Megophrys* has been described from the country, *M. lekaguli* Stuart, Chuaynkern, Chan-ard & Inger, 2006 based on collections of specimens from Chantaburi and Sa Kaeo Provinces, in southeastern Thailand. Cambodia has only recently become accessible for herpetological surveys after decades of war and political conflict. Recent extensive field work in primarily two hilly regions of Cambodia has dramatically increased our knowledge of the extant species in this long neglected country (e.g., Daltry & Wüster 2002; Ohler *et al.* 2002; Stuart & Emmett 2006; Stuart & Platt 2004; Stuart *et al.* 2006b; Grismer *et al.* 2007, 2008a,b). One new species, *M. auralensis* Ohler, Swan & Daltry, 2003 was described from the northeastern Cardamom mountains of Cambodia, and represents the first *Megophrys* species to be described from mainland Southeast Asia since the description of *Megophrys palpebralspinosa* Bourret, 1937. Elsewhere, *M. auralensis* has since been found at Knorgl Louk in the central Cardamom Mountains (Stuart & Emmett 2006) and is currently the only *Megophrys* species confirmed from this biologically rich region (Grismer *et al.* 2008b).

Malcolm Arthur Smith (1875–1958) was a qualified medical physician based in Thailand, who had a keen interest in herpetology. After his retirement in 1925, he returned to England to take a post at the British Museum of Natural History (The Natural History Museum, London), to continue his research on Asian amphibians and reptiles. During his career in Thailand (1898–1925), Smith visited many parts of Indochina, and accumulated a considerable collection of herpetofauna from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Indonesia (e.g., Smith 1917, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1926; Smith & Kloss 1915). Those collections which were included in the aforementioned publications were accessioned and catalogued at the British Museum at that time, however a considerable proportion of his specimens were kept in his personal collection at the British Museum of Natural History, and registered later in 1972. Part of these collections included specimens which were allocated to *Megophrys parva* (Boulenger), presum-