



A new species of *Nyctibatrachus* Boulenger (Amphibia: Anura: Nyctibatrachidae) from the surroundings of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, India

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Abstract

A new species of Indian nyctibatrachid frog, *Nyctibatrachus dattatreyaensis* **sp. nov.** (Amphibia: Anura), is described from the montane Shola forests of Dattatreya Peeta, Bhadra Wildlife sanctuary, Karnataka, southwestern India, on the basis of unique combination of characters: head wider than long; skin on the dorsum highly wrinkled with transverse corrugated folds; three discontinuous longitudinal folds, one dorsolaterally and two laterally; webbing on toes medium (3/4th); two yellowish bands on the dorsolateral area, prominent from sub-adult to adult stage; femoral glands present. The largest specimen in the type series has a snout-vent length of 41.0 mm. A revised key to the species of *Nyctibatrachus* is provided.

Key words: Amphibia, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, *Nyctibatrachus*, Western Ghats

Introduction

The amphibian family Nyctibatrachidae Blommers-Schlösser is unique to Western Ghats (India) and Sri Lanka, with the two nominal genera, *Nyctibatrachus* Boulenger and *Lankanectes* Dubois and Ohler respectively. The genus *Nyctibatrachus* is represented in India with 15 described species (Boulenger, 1882; Rao, 1920, 1937; Myers, 1942; Bhaduri and Kripalani, 1954; Inger *et al.*, 1984; Dubois, 1984; Ravichandran, 1997; Das and Kunte, 2005; Dinesh *et al.*, 2007; Radhakrishnan *et al.*, 2007 and Biju *et al.*, 2007).

During a recent survey in the southern Western Ghats, we collected a few specimens of a species of frog from the montane shola forests of Dattatreya Peeta, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Chickmagalur district, Karnataka, India which tallied with the generic diagnosis of the genus *Nyctibatrachus*, but differed from the descriptions of all the species hitherto known in the genus.

Material and methods

Measurements and terminology follow Dubois *et al.* (2001) with modifications abbreviated as follows HD-head depth; FL-femur length (vent to knee); IUE-minimum distance between upper eyelids; NS-distance from nostril to tip of snout; SL-distance from front of eye to tip of snout; TFOL-length of tarsus and foot (from the base of tarsus to tip of IV toe); TW-tibia width; UEW-maximum width of upper eyelid; BWBS-body width behind shoulders; BWL-body width at waist level; IOS-interorbital space; AG-axilla to groin distance; FGL-femoral gland length; FGW-femoral gland width. Morphological measurements were taken with Mitu-