



## Description of *Duttaphrynus atukoralei* (Anura: Bufonidae) tadpoles from Sri Lanka

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*Duttaphrynus atukoralei* (Bogert & Senanayake, 1966) is a relatively abundant toad known from Southern and Southeastern Sri Lanka. It occurs from sea level up to ~200 m above sea level (IUCN 2014). For almost half a century since its original description there was no information on its life cycle; the only information available is related to its description and distribution (Dutta & Manamendra-Arachchi 1996; Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda 2006).

On 21 August 2012 we collected a pair of *D. atukoralei* in amplexus (snout-vent length, SVL, male 30.1 mm, female 30.4 mm) from the Gin River floodplain in Wakwella of Galle, Southern Sri Lanka (65°26.5 N, 8011'10.0 E, 3 m a.s.l.). The toads were kept in a glass terrarium, until the release of their eggs. Upon the placement in a terrarium, during 2 hours and 45 minutes of observation, the amplexus pair released the eggs. The tank was filled with about 10 liters of well water and equipped with branches and living water plants (*Hydrilla* sp.) for hiding and climbing. The terrarium substrate consisted of small rock parts, leaves and river sands. The eggs (n=993), and larvae were maintained in captivity until metamorphosis. The time elapsed from hatching to metamorphosis ranged from 55 to 58 days. The fertilization rate of the eggs was about 97%.

Here we provide a brief description of the external morphology of *D. atukoralei* tadpoles.

The identification of adults was based on morphology (Dutta & Manamendra-Arachchi, 1996 and Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda, 2006). The description herein is based on tadpoles of Gosner stages (GS; Gosner 1960) 35 (n=3) and 38 (n=5). Voucher specimens were fixed in 10% formalin and preserved in 70% ethanol, and were subsequently deposited in the zoological collection of the National Museum of Sri Lanka, Colombo (2014.04.01.NH., 2014.04.02.NH., 2014.04.03.NH., 2014.04.04.NH., 2014.04.05.NH). Terminology for morphometric data, together with labial tooth row formula (LTRF) (including abbreviations) follows McDiarmid & Altig (1999) and Grosjean (2005). Measurements were taken using a digital hand caliper (in millimeters), based on tadpoles in Gosner stage (GS) 38 (n=5). Drawings were done with the aid of camera lucida and digital photographs were used for visualizing additional details.

**Description of tadpole stages 35 (Figure. 1., B, C) and 38.** Head and body depressed, oval in lateral and dorsal view, somewhat flattened dorsally; slightly convex ventrally, wider than high (height is 75% of its width); snout obtusely rounded in lateral view. Eyes positioned dorsolateral, visible from above. External nares originating nearer to tip of snout than to eye, narial openings dorsally positioned; distance between nostrils a little less than one-fourth interorbital distance. Mouth subterminal; lips not expanded. Spiracle median, positioned midway between the tip of snout and the base of tail, low on the side of body, developed into a tube. The anal tube proceeds obliquely along the body and tail-fin juncture, extending posteriorly along the ventral fin for a short distance. The tail length is nearly one quarter of body length; tail with slightly convex dorsal and ventral margins, both tapering gradually posteriorly; the tip of the tail has a rounded profile. The dorsal fin originates before the end of body; the greatest tail height is about equal to the snout-spiracle distance.

**Coloration in life (Figure. 1A).** The body pigmentation is light tan with pale-yellowish blotches, with a distinct translucent lateral area surrounding the body. The snout is light brown with scattered dark-brown spots and blotches. The irises are brownish-black, with bright-golden margins. The flank is similar to dorsal coloration, with some silvery blotches scattered ventrolaterally. The abdominal region is transparent. The tail musculature is ventrally opaque, extending laterally along three-quarters of its length; some dark brown blotches are scattered on the dorsal tail musculature. The fins are diaphanous; blood vessels are not visible on either fin. The gular region is translucent, the