



INDIAN BULLFROG

Predation record on *Duttaphrynus* species by *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin 1802)



Hoplobatrachus tigerinus feeding on *Duttaphrynus* sp.

IUCN Red List:
Least Concern
(Padhye et al. 2008)

Amphibia

[Class of frogs, toads, salamanders]

Anura

[Order of tailless amphibians]

Dicroglossidae

[Family of fork-tongued frogs]

Hoplobatrachus tigerinus

[Indian Bullfrog]

Species described by Daudin in 1802

Indian Bullfrog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin 1802) is the largest frog in South and Southeast Asia (Rahman et al. 2012) and also one of the endemic anurans of Indian subcontinent including countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka (Padhye et al. 2008; Surendran & Vasudevan 2013). The species is also recorded from Maldives and Madagascar (Surendran & Vasudevan 2013) and enlisted as 'Least Concern' according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Padhye et al. 2008).

Hoplobatrachus tigerinus is a solitary and nocturnal anuran in wild. The species inhabits in holes and bushes near permanent water sources (Dutta 1990). The frog does not stay in the water for a long time but spends most of its time in surrounding vegetation for hiding and feeding (Chanda 2002). They are monsoon breeders. Adults congregate at ephemeral rainwater pools at the time of breeding (Dutta & Mohanty-Hejmadi 1976).



Indian Bullfrog preferably feeds on invertebrates, small mammals like mice and shrews, young frogs and toads, juvenile snakes and small birds (Khan 1973; Rahman et al. 2012; Datta & Khaledin 2017).

Global Distribution:

Native: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan (Padhye et al. 2008)

The current incident depicts the photographic record of feeding on a toad *Duttaphrynus* sp. by Indian bullfrog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*. The episode was opportunistically observed in an abandoned stone quarry near a water body in Matheran of Maharashtra, India (19.0017°N & 73.2675°E) on 16th June 2016 at 23:09hr. During the episode, one sub-adult male of *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* was observed feeding on a live toad *Duttaphrynus* sp. Indian Bullfrog started eating the toad from its anterior part and engulfed it within 18 minutes. After feeding, the predator was in immovable phase for 20 minutes and subsequently moved into the water.

References

- Chanda, S.K. (2002).** *Handbook of Indian Amphibians*. Published by Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
- Datta, A.K. & S. Khaledin (2017).** Observations on an Indian Bull Frog swallowing an Asian Common Toad, and a Checkered Keelback on a Skipper Frog. *frog leg*#132, In: *Zoo's Print* 32(6): 28:29.
- Dutta, S.K. (1990).** Ecology, natural history and conservation of herpetofauna of Orissa, India. *Tigerpaper* (FAO) 20–28.
- Dutta, S.K. & P. Mohanty-Hejmadi (1976).** Breeding and life history of the Indian Bullfrog, *Rana tigerina* (Daudin). *Prakruti Utkal University Journal of Science* 13(1&3): 51–59.
- Khan, M.S. (1973).** Food of the Tiger Frog *Rana tigerina* Daudin. *Biologia* 93–107.
- Padhye, A., K. Manamendra-Arachchi, A. de silva, S. Dutta, S.T. Kumar, S. Bordoloi, T. Papenfuss, S. Anderson, S. Kuzmin, M.S. Khan & R. Nussbaum (2008).** *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. <http://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T58301A11760496.en> Downloaded on July 01st 2017.
- Rahman, S.C., W.I. Opu & K.R. Das (2012).** *Lycodon aulicus* (Common Wolf Snake): predation. *Herpetological Review* 43(2): 346.
- Surendran, H. & K. Vasudevan (2013).** Recent introduction and spread of Indian Bull frog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin, 1802) into the Andman Islands. *Aliens* 33: 42–43.

Acknowledgements: I would like to acknowledge Mr. Abhishek Singh Thakur and Mr. Ashish Kakade for their support during field observation.

Rishikesh Tripathi

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, 248001, India. Email: rishikeshtripathi14@gmail.com

Citation: Tripathi, R. (2018). Predation record on *Duttaphrynus* species by Indian Bullfrog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin, 1802). *frog leg*#134, In: *Zoo's Print* 33(4): 10:11.