



**At the centre of his universe, Dr. Mewa Singh. An occasion to commemorate his achievements. The untiring 24x7 day and night scientist presented with a memento on the new night frog. Photo by Elakshi Molur.**

## *Nyctibatrachus mewasinghi*

### **New species of night frog named after Dr. Mewa Singh**

Krutha, K., N. Dahanukar & S. Molur (2017). *Nyctibatrachus mewasinghi*, a new species of night frogs (Amphibia: Nyctibatrachidae) from Western Ghats of Kerala, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 9(12): 10985–10997; <http://doi.org/10.11609/jott.2413.9.12.10985-10997>

Adding to the list of night frogs, the 36th species newly described to science has been named after the famous Dr. Mewa Singh, Professor (for life) of Psychology at Mysore University.

When I called Mewa — as I have referred to him for the last 25 years — on his mobile yesterday to break the news about the new species, his first response was so typical that I could literally see him

right in front of me. “Ae, what’s this?! You have immortalized me! I didn’t know you were up to some mischief ...”, were his first words. All I could barely make out after that was his typically gruff, but almost child-like enthusiasm, expressing his joy. It took me back all the way to sometime in late 1993 when I was fairly green at ZOO and Sally and I had visited Mewa, her advice to me then, “Listen to every word Mewa has to say ... gem of a guy and he makes absolute sense”. The evening at the lawns of the Country Club turned out to be one of the best moments. It was then he encouraged me to work towards a PhD, but when I said I wanted to work for sometime in the field and then think of it, he kept a stern face saying “very few come back to academics after working”. So, in 2002 at the South Asian primate CAMP workshop on risk assessments when I approached him of my interest to work on a PhD and wished to be his student, that was when I again heard his gruff, almost child-like enthusiasm, in encouraging me to join immediately.

It was thanks to frogs in 11th and 12th grade that I shifted my attention to biology and conservation, and I’m happy to be part of this wonderful team in describing a new species of night frog after Mewa.

MewaSingh’sNightFrog is currently known only from one location in Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. During the chytrid survey in the Western Ghats, Keerthi Krutha found this frog and tagged it as *Nyctibatrachus* species. Later when Neelesh Dahanukar examined and genetically screened the specimens from this location, they stood out as a distinct species from the known list of 35 night frog species.

I had the opportunity of meeting with the extremely busy Professor in his office in Mysore University on 13 January and present him with mementos honoring him on the occasion of the new species. Thank you Mewa for your ever inspiring work and attitude in life!

~Sanjay Molur