



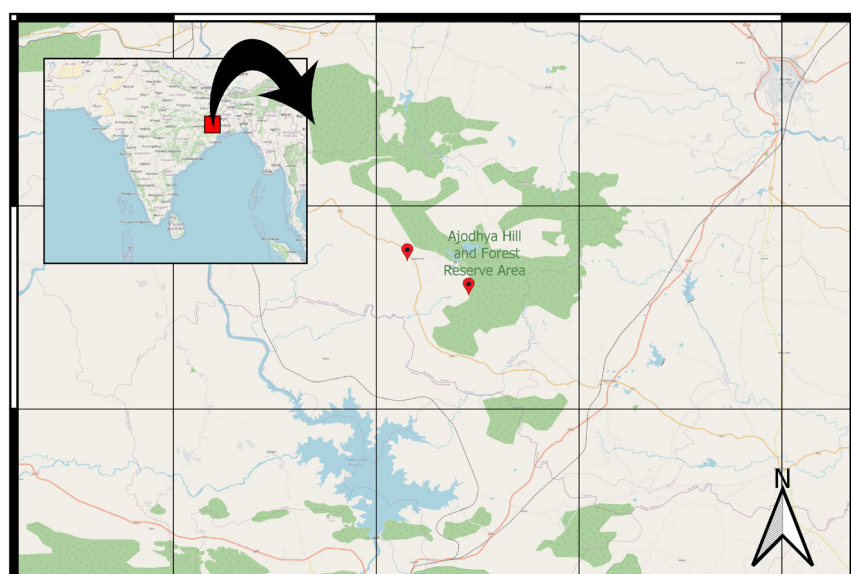
First record of Magadha Burrowing Frog from Purulia, West Bengal

Sphaerotheca genus has 11 species at present including the Magadha Burrowing Frog *Sphaerotheca magadha* Prasad, Dinesh, Das, Swamy, Shinde, & Vishnu, 2019 (Frost & AMNH 2020), which is the smallest member of the group (Varma 2019). It has also been recorded from Panna Tiger Reserve, central India (Prasad et al. 2020).

The species was photographed from Baghmundi Village on 3 September 12.53h using a Nikon D5600 camera with a Nikon 70– 300 mm lens. It



Magadha Burrowing Frog *Sphaerotheca magadha* sighted in Baghmundi Village and Ajodhya Hill in Purulia, West Bengal, India. ©Adarsha Mukherjee.



Locations of the sightings of *Sphaerotheca magadha* in Baghmundi village and Ajodhya hill, Purulia, West Bengal, India.

was also observed in Gobaria forest area in Ajodhya Hills. The specimens were not collected. The species was identified on the basis of its medium size, stumpy and squat body, wider head width than head length, rounded snout, first finger longer than the second and sub equal to third finger and moderate webbing (Prasad et al. 2019). Images were uploaded on amphibians of India website



Dorsal view of Magadha Burrowing Frog *Sphaerotheca magadha*. ©Adarsha Mukherjee.

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with media codes bm076, bm077, bm078 (Anonymous 2020).

Both of the areas where the species was sighted are under the Chota Nagpur Plateau. Baghmundi Village in Purulia is located at 23.19°N and 86.04°E (263m elevation) and the second area Ajodhya Hill in Purulia is located at 23.16°N, 86.10°E (274m elevation).

The updated distribution range of *Sphaerotheca magadha* is from eastern India (Jharkhand & West Bengal) and central India (Madhya Pradesh).

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