

Observation of interspecific amplexus between Indian Skipper Frog and Indian Bull Frog in Uttarakhand, India



Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis and *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* in axillary amplexus. © Shyamal Saikia.

Interspecific amplexus is reported from various anuran species and can occur due to sympatry, overlap of the breeding season, and explosive breeding pattern (Groffen et al. 2019; Jithin et al. 2021). Despite having a high diversity of anurans, relatively fewer cases of interspecific amplexus are reported from India compared to the countries of the Nearctic and Neotropical regions (Serrano et al. 2022). *Euphlyctis*

cyanophlyctis and *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* both belong to the Dicroglossidae family and are widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent (Frost 2021). *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* is aquatic while *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* is a semi-aquatic species and both frogs breed in stagnant water pools during monsoon (Daniels 2005). In this note, we report our observation of the interspecific amplexus between *E. cyanophlyctis*



and *H. tigerinus* from Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India.

At 1740 h on 30 April 2022, we observed a male *E. cyanophlyctis* engaged in axillary amplexus with *H. tigerinus* of unknown sex on the edge of a small cement water tank near a natural lake in the nature trail of Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun (30.2863°N, 77.9745°E). Three more *E. cyanophlyctis* were present inside the water. We observed the pair for around 5–7 min, thereafter, the *H. tigerinus* jumped inside the water and the pair separated. Amplexus of *E. cyanophlyctis* usually occur inside the water (Daniels 2005). However, this pair was observed outside of the water. Interspecific amplexus between *E. cyanophlyctis* and *H. tigerinus* has been reported previously by Sharma & Koli (2016) and interspecific amplexus between *E. cyanophlyctis* and *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* has been reported previously by Patel et al. (2022).

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