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frog leg

Observation of an injured Terai Tree Frog vulnerability to survival



An injured Terai Tree Frog Polypedates teraiensis (Dubois, 1987) was encountered during the herpetofaunal survey in the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh on 16 June 2022 at 1815 h. Malformation in toads and frogs are guite common in Mizoram population (Siammawii et al. 2021a,b,c; Lalremsanga 2022). Such injury may be due to inter-specific or prey-predator relationships or may be due to attempt of predation by possible snake species like Fowlea piscator (Schneider, 1799) or may be other snake species. This document reports on such abnormalities in frogs for the first time from Arunachal Pradesh and also documents the occurrence of *Polypedates* teraiensis in regional level.

Globally, genus *Polypedates* has 25 valid species, of which 13 species are found in India (Frost 2023). Terai Tree Frogs are nocturnal in habit and it prefers moist bushes, and shrubs around the water pools. It breeds in stagnant water or in storage tanks and forms



Polypedates teraiensis with forelimb injury from Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary. © Kirty Prosad Nath.

frog leg

a foam nest (Ahmed et al. 2009). *Polypedates teraiensis* population of northeast India was previously identified as *P. leucomystax* (Gogoi & Sengupta 2017). It is distributed from eastern Nepal and Bhutan to northeastern India. While in India, *Polypedates teraiensis* is distributed in West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.

The specimen has been identified on the basis of key features listed by Chanda (2002), Ahmed et al. (2009), and Mathew & Sen (2010) such as dorsally brown with four to six longitudinal lines, head large, skin between eyes bony and ossified, tympanum large and distinct, limbs long, all digits with large discs, fingers free, toes fully webbed.

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