



Occurrence of the Painted Globular Frog, *Uperodon taprobanicus* (Parker, 1934) (Microhylidae) from Guna District, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Nisar Ahmad Ganie¹ and Amit Kotwal²

Articalinfo

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Corresponding author: Dr. Nisar Ahmad Ganie,

Email Id: ganienisar9@gmail.com

¹Department of Zoology, Government College, Raghogarh, Guna, MP, India.

² Department of Education, Jammu and Kashmir. India.

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Abstract

Painted Globular Frog (*Uperodon taprobanicus*) is native to India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. This species is most common in southern India and Sri Lanka. However, the frog has a specific affection for the rainforests of South India. This species is found throughout much of eastern India. It has been recorded from sea level up to 200m ASL in India, and from sea level up to 1,300 m ASL in Sri Lanka. Herein, we report the presence of one adult Painted Globular Frog from the Raghogarh area of District Guna, Madhya Pradesh, marking its first record in the area.



Introduction

Native to India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal, the Painted Globular Frog (*Uperodon taprobanicus*) is most commonly found in southern India and Sri Lanka. However, the frog has a specific affection for the rainforests of South India (Daniels 2005). *Uperodon taprobanicus* is a medium-sized frog with bright red to orange, white, irregular markings on a brown or dark brown back. This species is most commonly found in areas having high levels of both air quality and water availability. The species has earlier been reported from various regions of the country, like West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Gujarat (Narayana *et*

al. 2017). This species is found throughout much of eastern India. It has been recorded from sea level up to 200m ASL in India, and from sea level up to 1,300 m ASL in Sri Lanka (Dutta, 1997). In Madhya Pradesh, the species has been reported by Vivek Pagare, a wildlife expert from Ujjain. Besides this, it has also been observed on multiple occasions in Rewa, as well as in protected regions such as Kanha Kisli and Satpura forests. Herein, we report one adult Painted Globular Frog (Fig. 1 & 2) encountered at my home on 25th of June 2025 during night hours when it was raining heavily in the Raghogarh area of the district Guna. Raghogarh lies in the North-East of Guna district within the geological coordinates of 24° 26' 35.448" N and 77° 11' 51.648 E and at an altitude of 455 mASL.

**Fig. 1****Fig. 2**

After collecting morphometric data, the frog was released at the botanical garden of Government College Raghogarh. Morphological Characteristics of Painted Frog *Uperodon taprobanicus* have been listed in Table -1.

| S. No | Table 1. Morphological Character of Painted Frog (<i>Uperodon taprobanicus</i>). | |
|-------|---|--------|
| 1 | Eye Diameter | 4 mm |
| 2 | Weight | 15.9 g |
| 3 | Body Length (Snout-vent) | 47 mm |
| 4 | Distance between eye | 9 mm |
| 5 | Distance between two ends of the jaws | 11 mm |
| 6 | Distance between snout and eye | 5 mm |
| 7 | Forelimb length | 26 mm |
| 8 | Tibia length | 20 mm |
| 9 | Femur length | 18 mm |



Results and Discussion

As we are aware that amphibians found in tropical regions usually live in areas with temperatures of 24 to 27°C and they require 85 to 90% humidity [Senevirathne *et al.*, 2020]. Painted Globular Frog (*Uperodon taprobanicus*) is a fossorial species, spending the daytime buried in the leaf litter, in loose soil or under fallen logs, but can also climb into the branches of trees [James *et al.*, 2018]. *Uperodon taprobanicus* live in varied habitats from forest areas to the coastal cities. It breeds in dirty water and stagnant rainwater-filled pools (Janzen, 2005).

Amphibians are among the planet's most threatened taxa. Population declines in recent decades have been especially severe, with up to five species going extinct each year (Stuart *et al.* 2004). In 2004, the First Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA1) revealed that nearly one-

third (32%) of the world's amphibian species were threatened with extinction. Presently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reports that over 47,000 species are currently threatened with extinction, out of which approximately 2,873 species are amphibians, representing 40.7% of all known amphibian species. However, this decline and extinction of amphibians have been reported as more severe in the tropics than in other regions (Stuart *et al.* 2004).

The IUCN lists Painted Globular Frog *Uperodon taprobanicus* as being of "Least Concern" [Inger and Voris 2001]. Meanwhile, Dr. Chandra Barooah and Lani Sarma (2016) of Assam Science Technology and Environment Council were also with the opinion of Least Concern (LC) status of Indian painted frog (*Uperodon taprobanicus*). However, the species is threatened by habitat loss and



degradation due to deforestation, agricultural expansion, and urbanization [Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 1998]. Besides this, the pollution of waterbodies with agrochemicals also poses a serious threat.

Conclusion

Painted Globular Frog *Uperodon taprobanicus* is a species of narrow-mouthed frog found in Nepal, Bangladesh, southern and eastern India, and Sri Lanka up to an altitude of about 1300 meters. The report describes the occurrence of the species in the North-east (Raghogarh) of Guna District of

Madhya Pradesh, India, which is a new distribution record for the species in Madhya Pradesh. We recommend that further studies are needed to evaluate the distribution and population status of the species and to develop conservation strategies for its protection.

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