



Comments on the Type Locality of the Marbled Toad, *Duttaphrynus stomaticus* (Lütken 1864) (Anura: Bufonidae) and the First Record from the Southern Bank of the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India

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The genus *Duttaphrynus* is represented by 27 species of which 19 are recorded from India (Frost 2020). The Marbled Toad (*Duttaphrynus stomaticus*) is widely distributed throughout India and is recorded from West Bengal, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Bihar, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Manipur, Haryana, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Sikkim (Sharma 1997; Choudhury et al. 2001; Frost 2020). The species was described by Lütken (1864) without mention of a type locality. Boulenger (1891: 462) noted that the specimens were procured by G. Westermann and that “The exact locality where these specimens were procured is not known, but they are believed to be from Assam; they are perhaps from Bengal.” Boulenger (1891: 463) also stated that of the five specimens sent to him by Professor Lütken, two were from Calcutta (= Kolkata) and one from Hughly (= Hooghly) in the present-day

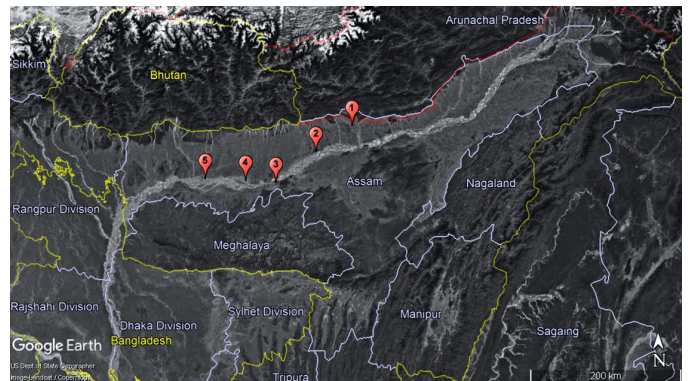


Fig. 2. A map of Assam showing known localities for the Marbled Toad (*Duttaphrynus stomaticus*). (1) Balipara Reserve Forest, Sonitpur District; (2) Orang National Park, Darrang District; (3) Choon Sali, Guwahati, Kamrup Metropolitan District; (4) Kuriahmari, Nalbari District; (5) Baghbor, Barpeta District. The Choon Sali site (3), reported herein, is the only record from the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River.



Fig. 1. A Marbled Toad (*Duttaphrynus stomaticus*) from the Choon Sali Area of Guwahati, Assam, India. Photograph by Jayaditya Purkayastha.

state of West Bengal and that the type series consisting of a male and a female were believed to be from Assam, but without providing any justification. Because G. Westermann also discovered the Indian Egg-eating Snake, *Boiga westermanni* (Reinhardt 1863) in Rangpur, Bengal (now the Rangpur Division of Bangladesh), and three of the five specimens of *D. stomaticus* have confirmed locality records in the state of West Bengal, we believe that all of the specimens likely originated in Bengal (perhaps present-day West Bengal).

According to Choudhury et al. (2001), *Duttaphrynus stomaticus* is known only from a few localities in Assam: Orang National Park in Darrang District, Kuriahmari in Nalbari District, Baghbor in Barpeta District, and the Balipara Reserve Forest in Sonitpur District. All of those records in Assam are on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River,

which Choudhury et al. (2001) believed was a barrier to dispersal of the species. Herein we report *D. stomaticus* for the first time from the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River. At ca. 1930 h on 22 September 2018, we recorded three Marbled Toads (Fig. 1) from the Choon Sali Area of Guwahati, Assam, India (26°12'27.7"N, 91°48'28.2"E; elev. >90 m asl). Habitat at the site in very close proximity to the river bank consisted primarily of paths and open fields intermixed with the sandy riverbed surrounded by the moist deciduous forests of the Kharguli Hills.

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