



# Consumption of a Plastic Bag and Predation on a Banded Kukri, *Oligodon arnensis* (Shaw 1802), by Indian Bullfrogs, *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin 1803)

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The large frogs in the genus *Hoplobatrachus* (Dicroglossidae) are semi-aquatic and live mostly near the edges of ponds, marshes, rivers, and flooded rice paddles (Hasan et al. 2012). The Indian Bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*), the largest frog in southern and southeastern Asia (Rahman et al. 2012), is widely distributed throughout the Indian Subcontinent (Daniel 2002). These solitary, nocturnally active anurans are known to feed on a variety of prey, including mice, shrews, birds, snakes as long as one meter,

lizards, toads and other frogs, including smaller individuals of its own kind, and land crabs (Daniel 2002). Herein we document two incidents of opportunistic feeding behavior reported for the first time from India.

On a rainy night at 2345 h on 27 July 2020, RVD, SAD, SAB, and SDK encountered a road-killed adult Indian Bullfrog (Fig. 1) near Zilpa Village, Saoner-Katol Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India (21.341923°N, 78.687969°E). The frog (~210 mm in length) had ingested a black plastic bag (~300



**Fig. 1.** An adult roadkilled Indian Bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) that had ingested a plastic bag about 300 mm in length. Photographs by Rahul V. Deshmukh.



**Fig. 2.** An Indian Bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) feeding on a young Banded Kukri (*Oligodon arnensis*). Photograph by Adarsh Ninawe.

mm in length). We suspect that the frog probably was attracted by a scent emanating from the bag. Khan (1973) listed a number of unusual items ingested by typically carnivorous Indian Bullfrogs that included vegetable matter (e.g., grass blades, seeds), cow dung, a piece of rope, brick, and human hair. Berry (1965) observed ingestion of pieces of brick, pebbles, and stones in a manner thought to be deliberate.

During a rescue operation at 2040 h on 20 August 2020 near a seasonal pond near Hanuman Mandir, Ram Nagar, Bahadura, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India (21.113487°N, 79.157760°E), ANK observed an adult Indian Bullfrog (~180 mm in length) feeding on a young Banded Kukri, *Oligodon arnensis* (~350 mm in total length) (Fig. 2). A video of the encounter is available on You Tube (<https://youtu.be/3BWJq3ebH-0>).

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