



Predation by a Marbled Toad, *Duttaphrynus stomaticus* (Anura: Bufonidae), on a Blindsnake, *Indotyphlops* sp. (Typhlopidae)

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The Marbled Toad (*Duttaphrynus stomaticus*) is a habitat generalist species widely distributed throughout the Indian Subcontinent and southeastern Asia (Dutta 1997; Chanda 2002; Daniel 2002; Bahuguna et al. 2014). The diet of this species consists mostly of invertebrates such as worms and photophilic arthropods (M.S. Khan, unpubl. ms., 2015). Herein I report an observation of predation by a Marbled Toad on a blindsnake (*Indotyphlops* sp.) in Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi District, Odisha, India (19.901082°N, 83.169452°E; elev. 261 m asl).

At around 2319 h on 6 June 2020, I encountered a toad in my backyard with a blindsnake in its grasp (Fig. 1). The snake was still alive and half of its body was still vis-

ible. The toad completely swallowed the snake within 35–40 seconds. Fossorial blindsnakes are seldom encountered on the surface except at night and especially after rain (Cogger 2014) and reports of predation on reptiles by toads in the genus *Duttaphrynus* are rare (O’Shea et al. 2013; Döring et al. 2017). Therefore, I suspect that this predation event was the result of a chance encounter in which an opportunistic toad failed to differentiate a small snake from more frequently encountered earthworms.

Acknowledgements

I thank Krishnendu Banerjee (Endangered Species Management Department in WII), Avrajjal Ghosh (NISER, Bhubaneswar), and Mayank Shukla (JRF, BNHS) for their constant support.

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Fig. 1. A Marbled Toad (*Duttaphrynus stomaticus*) ingesting a blindsnake (*Indotyphlops* sp.) in Bhawanipatna, Odisha, India. Photograph by Biswajit Harpal.