



Notes on Rough Dwarf Toads, *Duttaphrynus scaber* (Schneider 1779) (Anura: Bufonidae), in Surat District, Gujarat, India

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Photographs by the author.

Rough Dwarf Toads (*Duttaphrynus scaber*) (Fig. 1) inhabit wet evergreen tropical forest, tropical dry forest, dry scrubland, grassland, coastal marshes, and rural farmland areas throughout much of peninsular India and Sri Lanka at elevations ranging from sea level to 300 m asl (Dutta and Manamendra-Arachchi 2004). The presence of this species in Gujarat was questionable until Padhye et al. (2013) extended the known range to the northernmost extent of the Western Ghats. Sabnis and Amin (1992) had noted the presence of *D. scaber* in Gujarat but Vyas (2008, 2012) questioned the validity of that report. The first record from Surat District was in Parmar and Tank (2019). This species very likely occurs in other districts of Gujarat.

At least some of the confusion regarding the distribution of *Duttaphrynus scaber* can be attributed to its superfi-



Fig. 1. A Rough Dwarf Toad (*Duttaphrynus scaber*) found at night on the Veer Narmad South Gujarat University campus, Surat District, Gujarat, India.



Fig. 2. A pair of Common Asian Toads (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*) in amplexus. These much larger toads differ from Rough Dwarf Toads in having larger paratoid glands, a black spectacle-like pattern around the eyes, and black spots on the dorsum.

cial similarity with recently metamorphosed Common Asian Toads (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*). The latter species (Fig. 2), however, is much larger and has disproportionately larger paratoid glands, a black spectacle-like pattern around the eyes, and black spots on the dorsum, which are lacking in *D. scaber*.

Throughout their range, adult Rough Dwarf Toads generally are found under ground cover close to bodies of water during the breeding season and larvae are aquatic in stagnant waters (Ranjit Daniels 2005). Four of five individuals (Fig. 3) found on 16 April 2018 were in a grassy area near the Girnar Men’s Dormitory at Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, Gujarat, India (21°09’12”N, 72°47’00”E; elev. 13 m). A pair was mating (Fig. 4) on a road behind the Sahiyadri Dormitory at 2157 h on 11 July 2018, and a male was calling (Fig. 5) at 2218 h on 18 July 2018 from a grassy area adjacent to the lake near the Shri G.C.P. Institute



Fig. 3. Four Rough Dwarf Toads (*Duttaphrynus scaber*) in a grassy area on the campus of the Veer Narmad South Gujarat University campus, Surat District, Gujarat, India.



Fig. 5. A male Rough Dwarf Toad (*Duttaphrynus scaber*) calling at night in a grassy area adjacent to a lake on the Veer Narmad South Gujarat University campus, Surat District, Gujarat, India.



Fig. 4. A pair of Rough Dwarf Toads (*Duttaphrynus scaber*) in amplexus on a road on the campus of the Veer Narmad South Gujarat University campus, Surat District, Gujarat, India.

of Architecture, Interior Design, and Fine Arts. Another individual was encountered at 0010 h on 19 September 2018 in the grass near a lake.

Largely in view of its extensive distribution, *Duttaphrynus scaber* is listed as being of least concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, despite a continuing decline in area, extent, and quality of habitat, primarily due to urbanization, and threats including deforestation for commercial purposes and pollution of land and waterbodies with agro-

chemicals (Dutta and Manamendra-Arachchi 2004). In Gujarat, The Dangs District (location of first confirmed state record in 2013) is a hot-spot of biodiversity, but increasing development, largely for tourism, continues to destroy, alter, and fragment habitats. The Red List assessment (Dutta and Manamendra-Arachchi 2004), published 16 years ago, is in need of updating, but even then called for additional research on population size, distribution, and trends as well as life history and ecology.

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