



A Note on the Type Locality of the Himalayan Treefrog, *Polypedates himalayensis* (Annandale 1912) (Anura: Rhacophoridae)

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The Abor Expedition was a short war waged by colonial British Forces against the Abor (= Adi) tribes of the Abor Country along the Dihang (= Siang) River Valley (Hamilton 1912) in the present-day Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. Stanley Kemp and R. Hodgart, zoologists from the Indian Museum, Calcutta (= Kolkata), accompanied the British Expeditionary Force to study the faunal and anthropological aspects of the Abor Country (Kemp 1912). Based on specimens collected during the expedition, Annandale (1912) described six new species and one new subspecies of frog.

Among the new discoveries, Annandale (1912) described *Rhacophorus maculatus himalayensis* (now *Polypedates himalayensis*; Fig. 1), which he differentiated from two other races of the Common Treefrog, then known as *Rhacophorus maculatus* (Gray 1830), based on morphological variation and distribution. For many years, *Rhacophorus maculatus himalayensis* was considered a junior synonym of *Polypedates maculatus* or *P. leucomystax* by various workers (see the synonymies in Anders 2002 and Frost 2020) until Gogoi and Sengupta (2017) elevated it to species rank and placed the collection localities of the syntypes (Kobo and east of river Dihang) in the East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh. They did not, however, designate a lectotype from among the syntypes. Consequently, Frost (2020) retained the several type localities “The Eastern Himalayas, Assam, western China,” which actually constituted the distribution Annandale (1912) had attributed to his newly erected subspecies.

Gogoi and Sengupta (2017) reported that the two syntypes under registration number ZSIC 16969 were mutilated, so they used morphometric data of the third syntype (ZSIC 16944) for their redescription of the species. Because designation of a lectotype will result in the assignment of a type locality for the species, we herein designate (in accordance with the Article 74 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature; hereafter referred as the Code) ZSIC 16944 as

the lectotype and ZSIC 16969 as paralectotypes of *Polypedates himalayensis*. As per the recommendation under Article 73C of the Code for designating a name-bearing type, we provide the following data for the lectotype: An adult male having a snout-to-vent length of 31.84 mm, collected by Stanley Kemp from Kobo, elev. 400 ft (= 122 m), Abor Hills, and deposited in the museum of the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, under the registration number ZSIC 16944.

Because the designated lectotype (ZSIC 16944) is the name-bearing type of *P. himalayensis*, its place of collection (Kobo) is the type locality. Note that Chanda et al. (2000) reported the collection locality of ZSIC 16944 and ZSIC 16969 as “Kobo, alt. 4000 ft Abor Hills” (in Arunachal Pradesh, north-east India), whereas Annandale (1912) listed Kobo at an elevation of 400 ft (= 122 m). A review of per-



Fig. 1. A Himalayan Treefrog (*Polypedates himalayensis*) from Basar, Lepa-Rada District, Arunachal Pradesh, India. Photograph by Jayaditya Purkayastha.

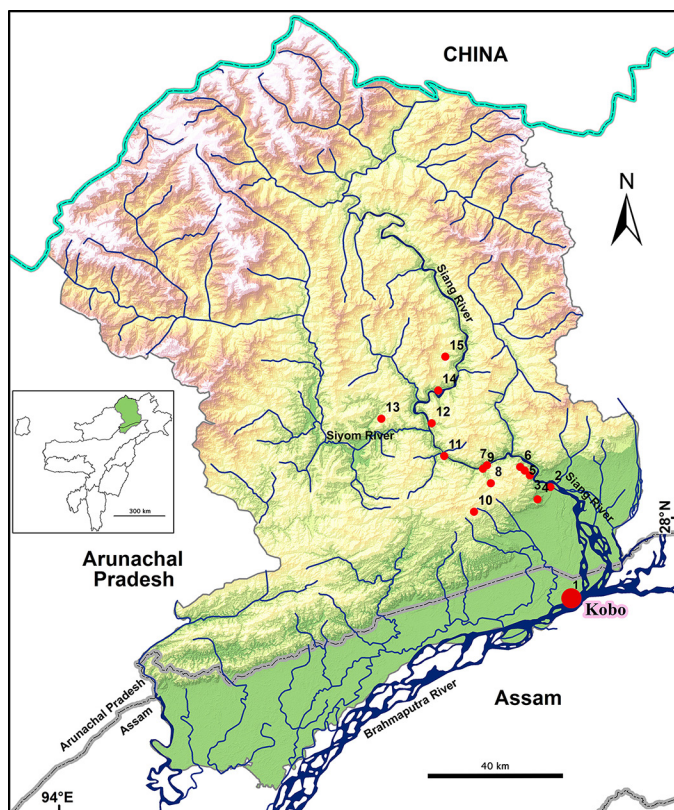


Fig. 2. Map showing the type locality of the Himalayan Treefrog (*Polypedates himalayensis*) in Kobo in Assam (large red dot) and all other localities in Arunachal Pradesh (smaller red dots) that had been surveyed by Stanley Kemp (1912) during the Anglo-Abor War, 1911–1912. 1 = Kobo, 2 = Pasighat, 3 = Janakmukh, 4 = Balek, 5 = Sirpo, 6 = Renging, 7 = Rotung, 8 = Kalek, 9 = Sireng, 10 = Misshing, 11 = Yembung, 12 = Komsing, 13 = Damda, 14 = Parong and 15 = Riga. Inset: Map of north-eastern India.

tinient literature (Hamilton 1912; Kemp 1912; Saikia and Sinha 2017) led to the conclusion that Kobo is located in Dhemaji District of Assam and not in Arunachal Pradesh as previously mentioned. Furthermore, we extracted the approximate geographical coordinates of the 15 localities

surveyed and highlighted in a topographical map by Kemp (1912) and plotted those coordinates on a GIS map (Fig. 2), which we prepared using ArcGIS software (Esri, Redlands, California, USA). That map clearly shows that, except for Kobo (27.78388889°N, 95.38305556°E), all other localities surveyed by Kemp (1912) are in Arunachal Pradesh.

In 2017, the senior author tried to visit Kobo but succeeded only in reaching the southern part of the Poba Reserve Forest north of Kobo. Kobo is now an island in the Brahmaputra River. Nevertheless, the visit confirmed that the type locality of Kobo is in the Jonai Sub-Division of Dhemaji District, Assam, India.

Acknowledgment

The first author expresses his gratitude to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, for support, and to Uttam Saikia for constructive comments that improved this manuscript.

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