



First Record of the Painted Globular Frog, *Uperodon taprobanicus* (Parker 1934) (Microhylidae), from Surat District, Gujarat, India

Dikansh S. Parmar

Department of Zoology, Goa University, Taleigão Plateau, Goa, India (ophiophagus_hannah10@yahoo.com)

The Painted Globular Frog (*Uperodon taprobanicus*) is native to India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal, and is most common in southern India and Sri Lanka (Daniels 2005). In India, this species has been reported from West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Gujarat (Narayana et al. 2017). Painted Globular Frogs occur only in isolated pockets in Dahod, Bharuch, and Anand Districts of Gujarat (Asifiqbal 2017; Vyas and Parasharya 2004) and have never been recorded from Surat District.

Herein I report two adult Painted Globular Frogs (Figs. 1 & 2) (SVL 49 mm and 52 mm, weight 16.2 g and 17.6 g, respectively) encountered during a field survey at 2245 h on 5 November 2019 near plants in a newly built concrete structure in the center of Canal Road in the City Light area of Surat (21.1536°N, 72.8013°E) and at 2016 h on 12 November 2019 near roadside plants opposite the Health Center on the campus

of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU) in Surat (21°09'12"N, 72°47'00"E) (Fig. 3). After collecting morphometric data, I released both frogs at the sites where they were encountered. Photographic vouchers have been deposited in the Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA (VZP1001–2). Dr. R.J. Ranjit Daniels, Care Earth Trust, Chennai, India, confirmed the identity of the frogs.

The first individual was in a disturbed area with ongoing construction; the site had previously been agricultural land but is now dominated by buildings and paved roads. A previous record from Ankleshwar in Bharuch District (Asifiqbal 2017) was in similar habitat, suggesting that these frogs are tolerant of some degree of anthropogenic habitat alteration. However, despite being of Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Inger et al. (2016) noted that residential and commercial development and pollution were ongoing threats.



Fig. 1. Adult Painted Globular Frogs (*Uperodon taprobanicus*) from Canal Road in the City Light area of Surat (left) and from the campus of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University in Surat (right). Photographs by Dikansh S. Parmar.



Fig. 2. A Painted Globular Frog (*Uperodon taprobanicus*) showing the venter and webbing on the hindlimbs. Photograph by Dikansh S. Parmar.

This species has been encountered rarely in Gujarat and was not found during extensive surveys of VNSGU from December 2017 to December 2018 (Parmar and Tank 2019). The new record increases the number of anuran species known to occur on the university campus to eight.

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Fig. 3. Map showing the localities where two adult Painted Globular Frogs (*Uperodon taprobanicus*) were found in Surat, Surat District, Gujarat, India.

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