



# A Freshwater Crab (*Barytelphusa cunicularis*) Feeding on Amboli Leaping Frog (*Indirana chiravasi*) Larvae in Maharashtra, India

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Natural selection, food web structure, population dynamics, community assemblages, and ecosystem function are all influenced by predator-prey interactions (Portalier et al. 2019). McCormick and Polis (1982) conducted a comprehensive global review of arthropod predation, in which they determined that arthropods were significant and underappreciated predators of vertebrates. Most if not all stages of amphibian life cycles are vulnerable to predation by arthropods but knowledge of the predation risk to and beyond metamorphosis is sparse (Nyffeler and Altig 2020; Valdez 2020).

The terrestrial larvae of the Amboli Leaping Frog (*Indirana chiravasi*), an endemic of the northern Western Ghats, inhabit areas with large wet rocks (Padhye et al. 2014). During a herpetological expedition on 18 July 2015, colleagues and I encountered a freshwater crab (*Barytelphusa cunicularis*) feeding on Amboli Leaping Frog tadpoles in a rocky crevice near the Rangana Fort in the Sahyadri Mountains on the boundary of Kolhapur and Sindhudurg Districts in Maharashtra, India (16.0849°N, 73.8437°E; WGS84; 633 m asl). To the best of my knowledge, this is the first report of *B. cunicularis* feeding on *I. chiravasi* tadpoles.

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**Fig. 1.** A freshwater crab (*Barytelphusa cunicularis*) feeding on Amboli Leaping Frog (*Indirana chiravasi*) tadpoles near the Rangana Fort in the Sahyadri Mountains in Maharashtra, India. Photograph by Omkar Yadav.