Anurophagy by an Indian Skipper Frog, *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* (Schneider 1799) (Anura: Dicroglossidae)

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Frogs play an important ecological role by feeding on a wide range of typically small invertebrate prey; however, they also have been recorded preying on small vertebrates (Wells 2007), including on other frogs (Toledo et al. 2007; Measey et al. 2015). Herein we describe an Indian Skipper Frog (*Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*) feeding on a cricket frog (*Minervarya* sp.). The Indian Skipper Frog, which inhabits various habitats across Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and India (Frost 2021; Dinesh et al. 2021), is known to be an opportunistic feeder, consuming a wide range of invertebrates and vertebrates (Hossain 2015).

During the late evening hours of 24 October 2019, we were returning to our guest house after a routine field survey. While passing through a stretch of grass thickets in Blackbuck National Park, Bhavnagar District, Gujarat, India (22.0456°N, 72.0193°E), we encountered a number of frogs of various species (Marbled Toads, *Duttaphrynus stomaticus*; Indian Bullfrogs, *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*; Indian Skipper Frogs, *E. cyanophlyctis*; and cricket frogs, *Minervarya* sp.) on the ground. One large frog (SVL ~5.0 cm) had grasped a smaller frog (SVL <2.0 cm) by its hindlimbs (Fig. 1) and, within a few minutes, had engulfed it entirely. We identified the predator as an Indian Skipper Frog and the prey as a cricket frog. Because we did not capture the frogs, we were unable to determine the species of the prey. Four species of *Minervarya* (*M. agricola*, *M. cepfi*, *M. keralensis*, and *M. sybadensis*) are known to occur in Gujarat (Patel et al. 2018; Patel and Vyas 2020; Garg and Biju 2021). To the best of our knowledge, this is the second report of anurophagy by *E. cyanophlyctis* in Gujarat; Patel et al. (2017) reported an individual feeding on a terrestrial frog (*Fejervarya* sp.).

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Literature Cited


