



# A New District Record of the Rare Indian Balloon Frog, *Uperodon globulosus*, from Lohardaga District, Jharkhand, India

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The Indian Balloon Frog, *Uperodon globulosus* (Günther 1864) is a rare fossorial microhylid frog occurring in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and western Myanmar (Frost 2022). This species mainly inhabits agricultural areas, grasslands, forests, and suburban areas (Prasad et al. 2020). It is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species despite facing threats due to agricultural runoffs and infrastructural development (Dutta et al. 2004).

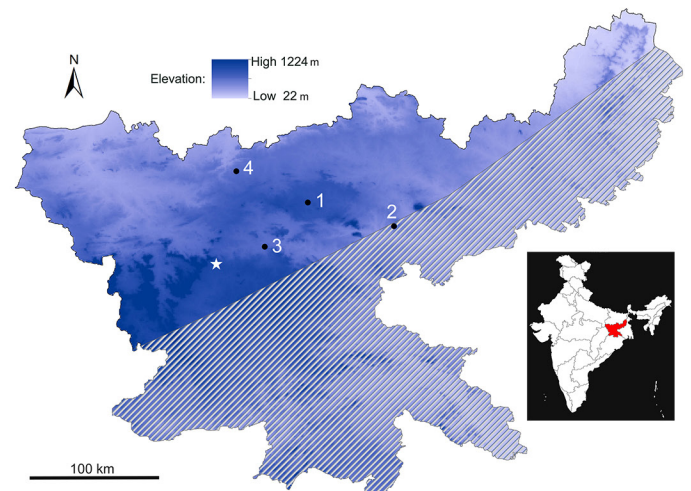
At 2130 h on 27 July 2017, our team recorded a calling male *Uperodon globulosus* (snout-vent length [SVL] 48.72 mm, weight 16.5 g) in the agricultural fields of Kamle village in Lohardaga District of Jharkhand, India (23.55246°N, 84.72614°E; WGS 84; elev. 684 m asl). The month of July is the period that corresponds to the breeding season of the spe-

cies during the rainy season. This record was submitted to the Zoological Reference Collection, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore as a photo voucher (ZRC-IMG 1.225; Fig. 1). The species is very rare in the area and has been previously recorded only once in each of the districts of Hazaribagh, Palamou, Bachra, Chatra, and Bokaro in Jharkhand (Fig. 2; Sarkar 1991; Sanyal et al. 2014). Herein we provide a new district record of this species from Lohardaga in Jharkhand State of India. This record falls outside the range shown in the IUCN assessment (Dutta et al. 2004).

This new district record of *U. globulosus* calls for an urgent need to conduct field surveys in agricultural landscapes in this region, as the area is undergoing intense infrastructural devel-



**Fig. 1.** In situ photograph of an Indian Balloon Frog (*Uperodon globulosus*) in Kamle Village, Lohardaga District, Jharkhand, India. Photograph by Vishal Kumar Prasad.



**Fig. 2.** Map of Jharkhand, India. The white star shows the location of the new district record of *Uperodon globulosus* in the Lohardaga District, Jharkhand, India, which falls outside the range indicated in the IUCN range (marked by diagonal lines). Black dots show previous district records in the state (1 = Hazaribagh, 2 = Palamu, 3 = Bachra, 4 = Chatra).

opment. The villages are modified into urban settlements at a fast rate to accommodate the growing human population. The agricultural run offs containing pesticides and fertilizers can also be a major threat to the species in this region, and further studies are needed. Delays in field surveys can result in extirpation of the species from Jharkhand State before being adequately documented. Additional field surveys will without doubt yield new state records, and potentially new amphibian species, in Jharkhand State (Prasad et al. 2019). We highly recommend amphibians to be considered in the biodiversity conservation plans by the government authorities in the State of Jharkhand.

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