



An Indian Bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) Preying on an Indian Burrowing Frog (*Sphaerotheca* sp.)

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The Indian Bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) is widely distributed in the southern Asian countries of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan (Frost 2023). Indian Bullfrogs are versatile predators, known to feed on a wide variety of vertebrate and invertebrate prey (Padhye et al. 2008; Mishra 2017; Tripathi 2018; Mohanty and Measey 2019; Kalita et al. 2021; Vazifdar et al. 2021).

Herein I report an observation of an Indian Bullfrog feeding on an Indian Burrowing Frog (*Sphaerotheca* sp.) at

Mahadare, Satara District, Maharashtra, India (17.68226 N, 73.97063 E). At approximately 2350 h on 25 September 2022, I encountered an Indian Bullfrog on the side of a road with the hindlegs of an Indian Burrowing Frog in its mouth (Fig. 1A). After some time, the Indian Burrowing Frog managed to escape, but was recaptured by the Indian Bullfrog (Fig. 1B). After being recaptured, the Indian Burrowing Frog was swallowed alive by the Indian Bullfrog. Ingestion took 21 minutes. The Indian Bullfrog remained immobile for 14 minutes before moving into roadside vegetation, where it was lost from sight.

Acknowledgements

I thank Vidhya Jadhav and the Nature & Social Foundation (NSF) for their constant support and encouragement.

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Figure 1. An Indian Bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) preying on an Indian Burrowing Frog (*Sphaerotheca* sp.) when initially observed (top) and after recapture (bottom). Photographs by Hrushikesh Awale.