



# A Bangladesh Skittering Frog, *Euphlyctis adolfi* (Günther 1860) (Anura: Dicroglossidae), preying on a Common Mormon Butterfly, *Papilio polytes*

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The dicroglossid frog *Euphlyctis adolfi* was not previously thought to be present in Bangladesh until it was recently proposed by Dufresnes et al. (2022). The study argues that *E. kalasgramensis*, distinguished from the widely known *E. cyanophlyctis* in Bangladesh by Howlader et al. (2015), is actually a junior subjective synonym of *E. adolfi*. Furthermore, the study suggests that *E. cyanophlyctis* is not present in Bangladesh but is now only found in India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. Therefore, *Euphlyctis adolfi*'s current distribution includes Bangladesh and Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka (Ali et al. 2020; Dufresnes et al. 2022; Frost 2023). Frogs in the genus *Euphlyctis* are opportunistic predators and generally feed on a variety of invertebrates and small vertebrates (Hossain 2015; Patel et al. 2017; Vyas and Patel 2021; Rai and Freed 2022). However, little is known about the feeding ecology of the Bangladesh Skittering Frog (*E. adolfi*), although Rai and

Freed (2022) reported an individual feeding on a Rosy Barb (*Pethia conchonius*) in a fish trap. Herein, we report an opportunistic observation of a Bangladesh Skittering Frog feeding on a Common Mormon Butterfly (*Papilio polytes*).

Shortly before noon on 15 March 2015, during a butterfly survey in Adampur Forest, Rajkandi Reserve Forest, Sreemangal Upazilla, Moulivibazar District, Bangladesh (24.2690, 91.8953; WGS84; elev. 62 m asl), we encountered a Bangladesh Skittering Frog preying on a Common Mormon Butterfly (*Papilio polytes*). While photographing butterflies along a creek at the edge of the forest, we observed a number of anurans (Asian Common Toads, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*; Indian Bullfrogs, *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*; Bangladesh Skittering Frogs, *Euphlyctis adolfi*; and narrow-mouthed frogs, *Microhyla* sp.) foraging along the sandy bank. Eight Common Mormon Butterflies were congregating on leaf litter and five Bangladesh Skittering Frogs were trying to capture them. After a few attempts, one of the frogs succeeded (Fig. 1) and then quickly ingested its prey. Although frogs are known to consume butterflies, including Sahara Frogs (*Pelophylax saharicus*) preying on Painted Lady Butterflies (*Vanessa cardui*) (Stefanescu and Páramo 2010) and reports of butterflies in the diets of the American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) (Jancowski and Orchard 2013) and the Indian Skipper Frog (*E. cyanophlyctis*) (Hossain 2015), this is the first record of *E. adolfi* feeding on a Common Mormon Butterfly.

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**Figure 1.** An adult Bangladesh Skittering Frog (*Euphlyctis adolfi*) feeding on a Common Mormon Butterfly (*Papilio polytes*) in Adampur Forest, Rajkandi Reserve Forest, Sreemangal Upazilla, Moulivibazar District, Bangladesh. Photograph by Mohammad Quamruzzaman Babu.

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