



Occurrence of the Indian Painted Frog, *Uperodon taprobanicus* (Parker 1934), in Bihar and Jharkhand, India

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Of the 8,682 currently recognized species of amphibians (Amphibiaweb 2023), 454 are known from India (Dinesh et al. 2023). Sarkar (1991) and Sarkar et al. (2004) listed 11 and 12 species with natural history notes from Bihar and Jharkhand, respectively. Publications about the amphibians of both states are limited to a few distribution and natural history notes (Venkateswarlu and Murthy 1972; Sarkar 1991; Sarkar et al. 2004; Inger and Dutta; 1986; Ray 1998; Chanda

2002; Sarkar and Ray 2002; Deuti et al. 2012; Hussain et al. 2017; Prasad et al. 2019; Kumar 2019; Sharma and Kumar 2020; Husain and Hasan 2021; Pankaj and Nath 2021, 2022).

The genus *Uperodon* Duméril and Bibron 1841 (Microhylidae) is widely distributed in Asia from Korea and northern China to the Lesser Sundas and the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh (Frost 2023). The genus is comprised of 13 species (Frost 2023). Few records document

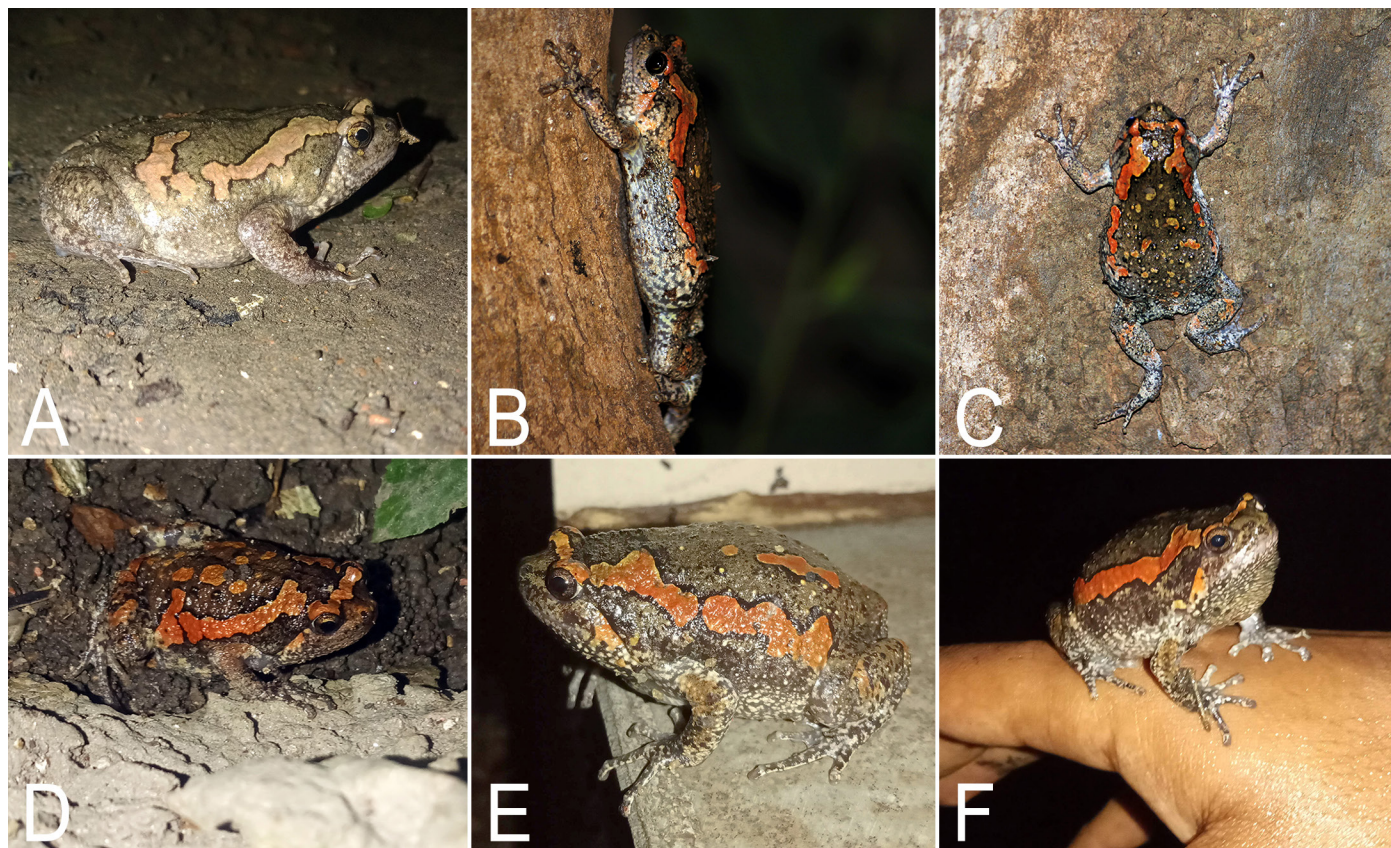


Figure 1. An adult Indian Painted Frog (*Uperodon taprobanicus*) near Jai Prakash Udyan in the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar, India (KUDA 14510) (A); on a tree trunk near the Makulakocha Forest Rest House, Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India (KUDA 14511) (B); on a tree trunk in the Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India (KUDA 145122) (C); juvenile foraging for insects at Hasanpur in Samastipur, Bihar, India (KUDA 14513) (D); adult near a human settlement in Hajipur, Patna, Bihar, India (KUDA 14514) (E); near the Baraiburu Forest Rest House in Saranda Forest, Jharkhand, India (KUDA 14515) (F). Photographs by Rahul Kumar (A–D, F) and Aman Raj (E).

Uperodon in Bihar and Jharkhand (Ray 1998; Sarkar et al. 2004; Deuti et al. 2012; Husain and Hasan 2021; Pankaj and Nath 2021, 2022).

The Indian Painted Frog, *U. taprobanicus* (Parker 1934), is a common fossorial, nocturnal, insectivorous species endemic to the Indian Subcontinent and Sri Lanka. It occupies a wide range of habitats including forests, plantations, gardens, agricultural lands, and other locales near human habitations (Sengupta et al. 2009; Ganesh 2012; Datta and Hasan 2021). In India, *U. taprobanicus* ranges from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Goa, Maharashtra and Kerala, and Tamil Nadu to Karnataka in the Western Ghats (Sarkar et al. 1992; Dutta 1997; Husain and Hasan 2021; Frost 2023), and also has been recorded in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal (de Silva and de Silva 1995; Dutta and Manamendra-Arachchi 1996; Datta and Hasan 2021; Rai et al. 2022). I herein present records of *Uperodon taprobanicus* from various localities in Bihar and Jharkhand, India.

Bihar and Jharkhand are located in eastern India. Bihar contains three physiographical regions: Northern Terai, the central fertile Gangetic Plain, and southern plateau region. Jharkhand was part of the southern half of Bihar but was split off at the end of the 2000s. The state is situated on a rocky undulating plateau dominated by tropical forests covering 23,721 km² (29.76% of the state's geographical area) (Forest Survey of India 2021). Climate in the area ranges from humid subtropical in the north to tropical wet and dry in the southeast, and the southwest monsoon from mid-June to October brings 1,000–1,500 mm rainfall (Langlontombi and Kumar 2021).

I supplemented literature searches for records of *Uperodon taprobanicus* in Bihar and Jharkhand with field observations and photographs of live individuals received for identification purposes from Patna, Bihar. Husain and Hasan (2021) provided a new record from the region at Gandhar, Jehanabad, Bihar. I photographed a single live individual on the forest floor near the Jai Prakash Udyan in the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary at 1900 hours on 20 August 2020 (24.9999, 85.4269) (Fig. 1A), two individuals on the trunk of a tree (*Alstonia* sp.) in the Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary at 2320 h on 28 July 2019 and at 1900 h on 1 August 2019 (Figs. 1B–C), a juvenile foraging on the ground at Hasanpur, Samastipur District on 4 October 2020 (Fig. 1D), and a single adult near the Baraiburu forest guest house in Saranda Forest during a night search on 14 June 2017 (Fig. 1F). I also observed a juvenile and an adult on the trunk of a Mango Tree (*Mangifera indica*) 35 cm above the ground at 2100 h on 4 October 2020 near the Hasanpur Sugar Mill and two individuals also on a tree trunk near Simaria Khurd, South Chatra (24.0610, 84.9366) at 2100 h on 2 July 2024. Two observers based in Patna also provided photographs of an individual observed in that city (Fig. 1E). All of the frogs were released after examination.

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