REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Interspecific Amplexus of a Malabar Gliding Frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*) and an Indian Treefrog (*Polypedates maculatus*)

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Despite the importance of mate recognition, misdirected amplexus has been reported in a number of anuran species (e.g., Serrano et al. 2022). The Malabar Gliding Frog, *Rhacophorus malabaricus* Jerdon 1870, is endemic to the Western Ghats of India (Sayyed 2013). These frogs mate via axillary amplexus and females then choose the leaf of a tree overhanging water for ovideposition (Kadadevaru and Kanamadi 2000). The Indian Treefrog, *Polypedates maculatus* (Gray 1830), which breeds from June through August in southern India, lays eggs in terrestrial foam nests, which facilitate protection from desiccation, control gaseous exchange, reduce solar radiation damage, and prevent microbial degradation and predation (Girish and Saidapur 1999; Brozio et al. 2021).

Figure 1. A male Malabar Gliding Frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*) in amplexus with a female Indian Treefrog (*Polypedates maculata*). Photograph by Anuraj Gaonkar.

At 2228 h on 17 June 2023, at Dhamshem Village (15.480 N, 74.129 E), North Goa, we recorded interspecific amplexus of a male *R. malabaricus* and a female *P. maculatus* that lasted for about 3 hours (Fig. 1). Dhamshem Village is characterized by semi-evergreen forest and is located in the foothills of the Western Ghats. Foam nests of *R. malabaricus* were seen overhanging two nearby small concrete water tanks, typically amplexed pairs of both species were present, but the number of *P. maculatus* exceeded that of *R. malabaricus*. We suggest that the increased competition for mates was a factor in the male *R. malabaricus* engaging in amplexus with a female *P. maculatus*.

Acknowledgement

We thank Shubham Rane for his generous help with this study.

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Reptiles & Amphibians ISSN 2332-4961
https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v30i1.20994