



New Record of the Indian Balloon Frog, *Uperodon globulosus* (Günther 1864) (Anura: Microhylidae), from the Indian State of Goa

Bartosz Borczyk

Department of Evolutionary Biology and Conservation of Vertebrates, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland (bartosz.borczyk@uwr.edu.pl;
ORCID: 0000-0001-9630-1809)

The State of Goa is located in western India between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats and is thought to be a biodiversity-rich region (Rahmani et al. 2016). However, the composition and distribution of the amphibian fauna of Goa is poorly known compared to adjacent regions (Kulkarni et al. 2013). Initial surveys of amphibian diversity in this area were published only about 30 years ago (Sekar 1991, 1992; Bhat and Desal 1998).

The Indian Balloon Frog, *Uperodon globulosus* (Günther 1864), is listed as Least Concern (LC) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Dutta et al. 2004). In India, it has been recorded from Assam in the east to Gujarat in the west; on the Indian Peninsula it is known to occur in Goa, Orissa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, and possibly Kerala; however, most of the records are from isolated localities (Sekar 1992; Molur and Walker 1998; Daniel 2002; Easa 2003; Sarkar and Ray 2004; Daniels 2005; Srinivasulu et al. 2006).

Herein I report a road-killed juvenile *U. globulosus* (SVL = 26.7 mm) (Fig. 1) from Benaulim, Goa (15.253700, 73.930000), that was collected at 2330 h on 28 August 2012 on a road passing between wet meadows and rice fields shortly after a light rain. A photograph of the specimen was deposited in the Kansas University Digital Archive (KUDA 14689) and the identity of the species was confirmed by Krzysztof Kolenda.

Although *Uperodon globulosus* is widely distributed in India, records are patchy and sporadic. The only published record of the Greater Balloon Frog in Goa is from Sanguem in southern Goa (Sekar 1992; Sarkar and Ray 2004), about 23 km from the present record. Bhat and Desai (1998) noted that this species is rare, “restricted to a few pockets of Northern Goa only...” The nearest known site north of Goa is from Pune District, Maharashtra, approximately 800 km north of Benaulim (Padhye and Gathe 2002; Padhye et al.

2002). The species also is known from the Western Ghats in Karnataka, more than 100 km from the present record (Daniels 1992). This species could have a wide and continuous distribution in much of India; however, it may simply have been overlooked due to its secretive, fossorial lifestyle, moving on the surface only during the breeding season at the beginning of the monsoons (Daniel 2002).

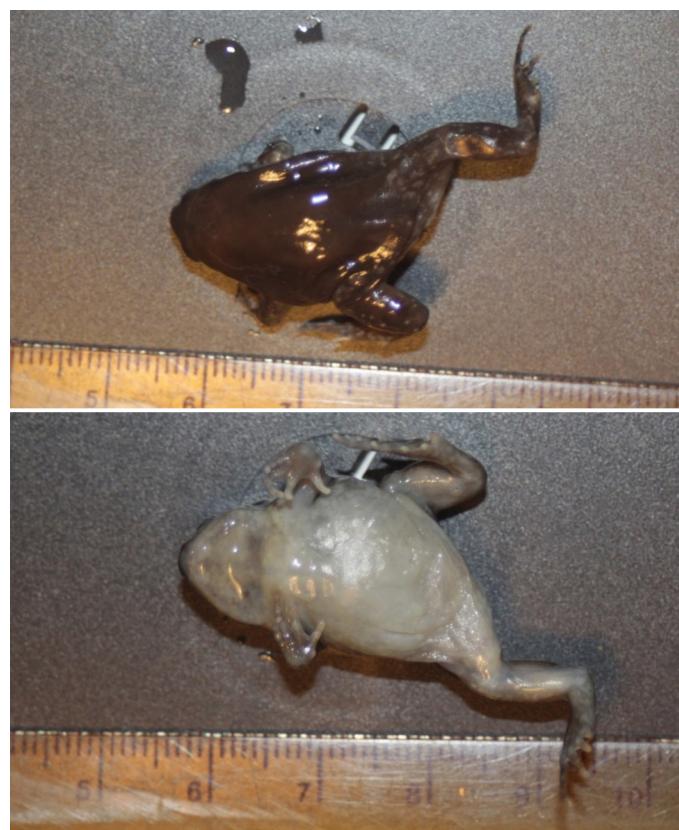


Figure 1. An Indian Balloon Frog, *Uperodon globulosus* (Günther 1864), from Benaulim, Goa, India. Photographs by Bartosz Borczyk.

Literature Cited

Bhat, S. and P.V. Desai. 1998. Ecology of some amphibians on the state of Goa. *Frogleg* 3: 2–3.

Daniel, J.C. 2002. *The Book of Indian Reptiles and Amphibians*. Bombay Natural History Society and Oxford University Press, Mumbai, India.

Daniels, R.J.R. 1992. Geographical distribution patterns of amphibians in the Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Biogeography* 19: 521–529. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2845771>.

Daniels, R.J.R. 2005. *Amphibians of Peninsular India*. Universities Press (India) Private Ltd., Hyderabad, India.

Dutta, S., A. Padhye, S. Sengupta, and S.U. Sarker. 2004. *Uperodon globulosus. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2004: e.T58022A11717889. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2004.RLTS.T58022A11717889.en>.

Easa, P.S. 2003. *Biodiversity Documentation for Kerala. Part 9: Amphibians*. Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Kerala, India.

Kulkarni, N., K.P. Dinesh, P. Prashanth, G. Bhatta, and C. Radhakrishnan. 2013. Checklist of amphibians of Goa. *Frogleg* 19: 7–12.

Molur, S. and S. Walker (eds.). 1998. *Report of the Workshop “Conservation Assessment and Management Plan for Amphibians of India,” (BCPP – Endangered Species Project)*. Zoo Outreach Organisation, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group—India, Coimbatore, India.

Padhye, A.D. and H.V. Ghate. 2002. An overview of amphibian fauna of Maharashtra state. *Zoos' Print Journal* 17: 735–740. <https://doi.org/10.11609/JOTT.ZPJ.17.3.735-40>.

Padhye, A.D., M. Mahabaleshwarkar, and H.V. Ghate. 2002. An overview of amphibian fauna of Pune district with special reference to their status in and around Pune city. *Zoos' Print Journal* 17: 757–763. <https://doi.org/10.11609/JOTT.ZPJ.17.4.757-63>.

Rahmani, A.R., M.Z. Islam, and R.M. Kasambe. 2016. *Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in India: Priority Sites for Conservation*. 2nd edition, revised and updated. Bombay Natural History Society, Indian Bird Conservation Network, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and BirdLife International (U.K.), Mumbai, India.

Sarkar, A.K. and S. Ray. 2004. A synopsis of the amphibian fauna of Goa. *Hamadryad* 28: 7–18.

Sekar, A.G. 1991. Key to the amphibian fauna of Goa. *Herpeton* 4: 14–15.

Sekar, A.G. 1992. Additions to the list of amphibian fauna of Goa. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 89: 134–135.

Srinivasulu, C., M. Siliwal, A. Rajesh, P. Venkateshwarulu, I. Siva Rama Krishna, C.A.N. Rao and T.K. Rao. 2006. First record of *Uperodon globulosus* (Günther, 1864) (Anura: Microhylidae) from Andhra Pradesh, India. *Hamadryad* 30: 197–199.