



A New Distribution Record for the Bompu Litter Toad (*Leptobrachium bompu*) from the Dibang River Basin, Arunachal Pradesh, India, and the First Report of an Egg Mass

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The rare terrestrial Bompu Litter Toad (*Leptobrachium bompu*), listed as being of Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2022), is distributed in Bhutan and adjacent areas in China and India (Arunachal Pradesh) (Frost 2025). Originally described by Sondhi and Ohler (2011) from the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, the species since has been recorded from the Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and Pange in Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh (Saikia et al. 2017), Upper Medog, Tibet, China (Liang et al. 2017), and Pakhola in Sarpang District, Bhutan (Tenzin and Wangyal 2019). We herein provide a new elevational record and the first report of breeding behavior in the species from the Dibang River Basin, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

During a field survey on 5 May 2018, we found a few individuals calling from thick litter near the edge of Mehao

Lake, Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh (28.145239, 95.929996; elev. 1,698 m asl) (Fig. 1). On 16 May 2018, we encountered another population along a slow-flowing stream near the Mayodia Pass, Lower Dibang Valley (28.235244, 95.905970; elev. 2,510 m asl), where males (SVLs 42.3–45.8 mm; n = 6) were calling from a gap between boulders. We also observed amplexus and found an egg mass of ~110–130 eggs in gelatinous sheaths on a boulder in the stream (Fig. 2). These records from the Dibang River Basin are the first to record amplexus and describe an egg mass, and the record from near the Mayodia Pass is the highest elevation record for *Leptobrachium bompu* from the species' known range in India and Bhutan.

Photographic vouchers of individuals from Mehao Lake (ZRC: IMG 1.295) and near Mayodia Pass (ZRC: IMG 1.296) were deposited at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore. The



Figure 1. A Bompu Litter Toad (*Leptobrachium bompu*) and habitat at Mehao Lake, Lower Dibang River, Arunachal Pradesh, India (ZRC: IMG 1.295). Photographs by Jayanta Kr. Roy.



Figure 2. Amplexus in Bompu Litter Toads (*Leptobrachium bompu*) and an egg mass from a stream near Mayodia Pass, Lower Dibang River, Arunachal Pradesh, India (ZRC: IMG 1.296). Photographs by Jayanta Kr. Roy.

species was identified from photographs using key characteristics in the original description of the species (Sondhi and Ohler 2011), and the identity of the species was confirmed by Sushil Kr Dutta, Retired Prof., North Orissa University, India.

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