



A New Record of the Mukhlesuri's Chorus Frog, *Microhyla mukhlesuri* Hasan et al. 2014 (Microhylidae), from the Malabati Forest, West Bengal, India

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Frogs of the genus *Microhyla* include some of the smallest amphibians in the world and represent the largest radiation of Asian microhylids (Gorin et al. 2020). These frogs are widely distributed across Asia (Hasan et al. 2014; Frost 2024). Currently, fifteen species of *Microhyla* are found in India (Frost 2024). Mukhlesuri's Chorus Frog (*Microhyla mukhlesuri*) is a sub-fossorial species (Lau et al. 2008) and occurs in a variety of habitats (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2023). The species was first described from Raozan, Chittagong District, Bangladesh (Hasan et al. 2014), recorded in Myanmar by Poyarkov et al. (2019), from Mizoram in India by Garg et al. (2018), and subsequently from Nayagram, West Bengal by Pratihari and Deuti (2021). We herein report a new record for *Microhyla mukhlesuri* from the Malabati Forest, Jhargram District, West Bengal. All records of the species to date are between 21.0° and 23.5° N and south of the Tropic of Cancer.

During a nocturnal survey at 2000 h on 25 September 2024, we encountered a few *Microhyla mukhlesuri* near a pond under a shrub in the Malabati Forest, West Bengal, India (22.598500, 86.874700; elev. 128 m asl), and collected an adult male and an adult female (Fig. 1). The Malabati Forest is a tropical dry deciduous forest, characterized by seasonal variation in rainfall patterns causing most trees to drop their leaves after rain to prevent water loss during the dry season (Singh

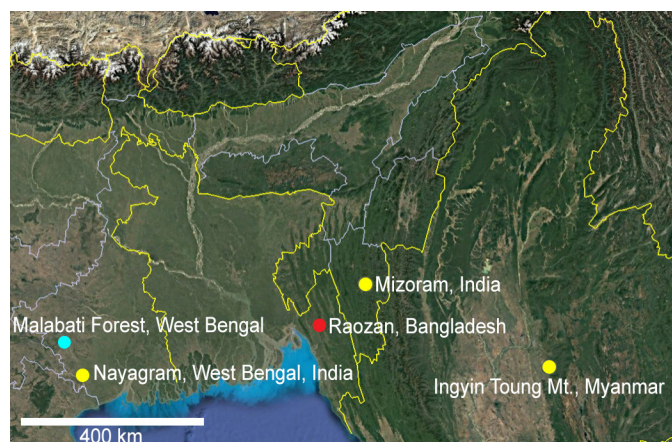


Figure 2. Google Earth® image showing locality records of Mukhlesuri's Chorus Frog (*Microhyla mukhlesuri*): The red dot indicates the type locality, yellow dots indicate previously known records, and the blue dot indicates the new record from the Malabati Forest, West Bengal, India.

and Chaturvedi 2017). This new record extends the known distribution of the species about 70 km to the northwest and represents the second authenticated record from West Bengal and the third from India (Fig. 2). Specimens were deposited in the National Zoological Collection of the Zoological Survey of India (A16177–8). The identity of the species was confirmed by Dr. Bikramjit Sinha and Dr. Priyadarsi Giri Sankar Sethy.



Figure 1. Mukhlesuri's Chorus Frogs (*Microhyla mukhlesuri*); A16177, an adult female, and A16178, an adult male, collected in the Malabati Forest, West Bengal, India. Photograph by Shuvam Das.

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