

## CATALOGUE OF AMPHIBIAN TYPES IN THE COLLECTION OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

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**ABSTRACT.**— The amphibian types in the collection of the National Zoological Collection, maintained by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata (Calcutta), as well as those held by the regional stations at Dehra Dun and Chennai, are listed, up to 1 September 2000. The list includes many historical specimens collected and/or described by pioneering European naturalists, including Edward Blyth, Thomas Jerdon, William Blanford, William Theobald, Ferdinand Stoliczka, Nelson Annandale, and John Anderson, as well as those more recently described from expeditions to the Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala, by the staff of the ZSI during the present century. The annotated list includes original citations, registration numbers, nature of types, and present status of every taxon. Additional remarks are provided where necessary. A total of 346 type specimens of amphibians are represented, including those representing 105 anuran species, one caudate species and nine apodan species, from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Syntypes from the original type series of two name-bearing taxa have lost their type status through the designation of lectotypes. In addition, the types of 39 name-bearing taxa described by the staff and members of the Asiatic Society of Bengal cannot be located in the ZSI collection.

**KEYWORDS.**— Zoological Survey of India, systematic collection, amphibians, type specimens, type catalogue, south Asia, herpetology.

### INTRODUCTION

The history of the herpetological collections of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has been recently traced by Das et al. (1998), who compiled a list of the reptile types in the collection. The amphibian types in the same collection, which have great historical value too, had remained neglected for over a century. The first effort to prepare a catalogue of the herpetological holdings, including a listing of the then extant types, was that of William Theobald (1868), staff member of the Geological Survey of India, then based in Burma (now Myanmar). Prepared during a visit to Calcutta (at present, Kolkata) by Theobald, this work was criticized for the omission of several important types of amphibians described by

Edward Blyth, a former Curator, by the then Superintendent, Anderson (1871b). Although a rebuttal followed (see Theobald, 1873), this presumably was the cause of bitterness between the two in the years to follow (see Iverson and McCord, 1997).

The last catalogue of the amphibians was the one by Sclater (1892b). The present catalogue of the amphibian types of the ZSI includes not only the holdings of the National Zoological Collection, Kolkata, but also those in the regional stations at Dehra Dun and Chennai, up to 1 September 2000. Also appended is a list of amphibian names established by members and staff of the Asiatic Society of Bengal or the inheritor of its zoological collections, the Indian Mu-