

***Leptobrachium smithi* Matsui, Nabitabhata, and Panha, 1999 (Anura: Megophryidae), an Addition to the Fauna of Myanmar (Burma)**

INDRANEIL DAS¹ AND SHYAMAL KUMAR CHANDA²

¹*Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia; E-mail: idas@ibec.unimas.my*

²*Amphibia Section, Zoological Survey of India, Fire-Proof Spirit Building, 27, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata 700 019, India*

Abstract. - Three specimens of *Leptobrachium* from the collections of the Zoological Survey of India are identified as *Leptobrachium smithi*. These specimens were collected by Limborg in 1877. These are the first confirmed records of *Leptobrachium smithi* for Myanmar.

Key words. - Anura, *Leptobrachium*, Myanmar, Burma.

Leptobrachium smithi Matsui et al. (1999) was described from peninsular Thailand, based on populations that were formerly referred to *L. hasseltii* Tschudi, 1838 (see Frost, 1985). This species was recently reported from Chandubi in the Mayeng Hill Reserve Forest and Garbhanga Reserve Forest, Kamrup District, Assam State, north-eastern India by Sengupta et al. (2001). We here report specimens from Myanmar in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) that are allocated to *L. smithi*.

Three specimens of *Leptobrachium smithii* were examined: ZSI 10439-40, from "Ahsoon" (unlocated), in Tenasserim, Myanmar, altitude "2,000 feet", collected by the Swedish journalist, novelist, poet and ship captain, Gustaf Arthur Ossian Limborg (1849-1908) in 1877. Limborg's expedition to what was then Burma was sponsored by Lord Tweeddale (Kjellgren, 1983) and his collections are distributed in Sweden and the US). Also examined was ZSI 11841, from Lampi Island, Mergui, collected by John Anderson, in 1882 (referred to by Anderson, 1889, as from "Sullivan Island", an older name for Lampi, 10° 50' N; 98° 15' E).

The material from Myanmar match the description of original description of *Leptobrachium smithi*, in addition to additional specimens examined from Assam State (see Sengupta et al., 2001), in showing the following characteristics: moderate body size (snout-vent length 22.4-43.4 mm; head width 6.6-18.1 mm; n = 3); small inner metatarsal tubercle; dorsum smooth; and absence of rows of dermal ridges on dorsal surface of limbs. All specimens referred to here are discolored, hence other characters used in separating *L. smithi* from *L. hasseltii*, such as absence of white spots on sides of body and on thigh; absence of dark spots on ventrum; and absence of dark markings on dorsum, that differentiates the north-

ern *L. smithi* from the southern *L. hasseltii*, are indiscernable.

The known distribution of *Leptobrachium smithi* is thus north-eastern India, Myanmar (first country record on the basis of ZSI specimens reported here) and Thailand. Matsui et al. (1999) suspected the occurrence of the species in southern Myanmar, based of the larval description of *L. hasseltii* by Annandale (1917:153-157, as *Megalophrys hasseltii*), from the Dawna Hills of the Tenasserim. We have examined these specimens (ZSI 16735-43) that carry the following locality "Misty Hollow, w side of Dawna Hills, L. Burma". Surprisingly, Annandale, neither in his 1917 monograph, nor in any other works, have referred to the specimens from Burma mentioned earlier, although all of these were available to him (see Sclater, 1892).

Acknowledgments

We thank J. R. B. Alfred, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and Colin J. McCarthy, The Natural History Museum, London, for permission and facilities at their respective institutions. Saibal Sengupta, Arya Vidyapeeth College, made comparative material available to us, and Erik Åhlander, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, provided details on the life of Ossian Limborg.

Literature Cited

Anderson, J. 1889. Report on the mammals, reptiles, and batrachians, chiefly from the Mergui Archipelago, collected for the Trustees of the Indian Museum. *Journal of the Linnean Society (Zoology)* 21:331-350.