

FIRST RECORD OF JERDON'S BULL FROG *Hoplobatrachus Crassus* (JERDON, 1853) FROM GUJARAT

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Figure 1. *Hoplobatrachus crassus* (Jerdon, 1853)

The Jerdon's Bull Frog (*Hoplobatrachus crassus*) was recorded and described by Jerdon (1853) from "Carnatic" northern Tamil Nadu, southern India. Afterwards it was recorded from many parts of India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. This species has been recorded from most parts of India, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa (Dutta, 1997), recently from northeastern parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh (Bordoloi & Borah, 1999), and from Mulshi, Pune District, Maharashtra (Padhye & Ghate, 2002).

On the basis of several common external features, *Hoplobatrachus crassus* was considered as *H. tigerinus* by Boulenger (1920) and Kirtisinghe (1957). An analysis of morphometric data of *H. crassus* and *H. tigerinus* reveals a significant variation in the shape of the head, tibia and inner metatarsals tubercles (Saikia *et al.*, 2000). *Hoplobatrachus crassus* can be differentiated from *H. tigerinus* by its brownish dorsum with long folds; short snout, head and tibia; and large shovel-like inner metatarsal tubercles as opposed to greenish-yellow dorsum with shorter folds.

On 10 September 2002, during an amphibian study we collected an unusual frog (Fig. 1) along with few other species of frogs belonging to family Ranidae: *H. tigerinus*, *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* and *E. hexadactylus*. All these frogs were collected from a puddle in a paddy field at Lambha, near Ahmedabad City (23°01'N & 72°36'E), Ahmedabad District, Gujarat. It was identified as Jerdon's Bull Frog (*H. crassus*) with the help of published literature (Daniel, 1975; Saikia *et al.*, 2000). The specimen was deposited at the Museum of the Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai (BNHS 4189). Some important body measurements and morphometrics are given in Table I.

Present record of the Jerdon's Bull Frog (*Hoplobatrachus crassus*) from Lambha Village of Ahmedabad is its western most range extension and first record from Gujarat State.

References

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- * Original not referred.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements (in mm) of *Hoplobatrachus crassus* from Gujarat State

Snout to vent length = SVL	83.38
Tibia length = TBL	34.22
Distance between fore & hind limb at its body insertion = TL	33.64
Head length = HL	28.26
Head width = HW	29.14
Head depth = HD	17.52
Eye diameter = ED	06.80
Inter orbital space = IO	04.64
Internasal space = IN	05.34
Distance between eye to tip of snout = E-S	03.20
Distance between eye to nostril = E-N	05.84
Inner metatarsal tubercles = IMT	06.96
4 th toe length = T ₄	25.6
Horizontal tympanum diameter = HTYD	05.16
Vertical tympanum diameter = VTYD	05.74
Body weight = BW	70 g