

Observations on an Indian Bull Frog swallowing an Asian Common Toad, and a Checkered Keelback on a Skipper Frog



Indian Bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) swallowing Asian Common Toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*).

The following opportunistic observations were made on 5 July 2013 and 3 September 2014 in Jahangirnagar University Campus of Bangladesh. The species identification was done following (Hasan et al. 2014). Jahangirnagar University Campus having 280 hectares is situated at the central region of Bangladesh (30°16'N & 90°26'E), 32km north from Dhaka city. The campus has a mixture of diverse habitats. In addition, the area consists of agricultural lands, orchards and botanical gardens in and around human settlements. At present 11 species of amphibians, 19 species of reptiles, 189 species of birds and 12 species of mammals are found in Jahangirnagar University Campus (Datta 2014). Here we report two cases of predation.

Most adult frogs feed on invertebrates, but a few large species with relatively large head and wide mouth consume other vertebrates as well (Corlett 2011). On 3 September 2014 around 09:40hr, an adult *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Indian Bullfrog) was seen swallowing another adult *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Asian Common Toad) near a student



dormitory in the campus. The toad was swallowed slowly from its head end. The whole process of ingestion took around 12 minutes. The Indian Bullfrog is reported to prey upon mice, shrews, birds up to the size of the Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*), snakes up to a meter in length, spiny lizard (*Uromastyx*), toads, other frogs including smaller sized frogs of its own kind, land crabs etc., (Daniel 2002).



Checkered keelback (*Xenochrophis piscator*) predating upon skipper frog (*Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*). Photos: Ashis Kumar Datta

Unlike most other predatory vertebrates, all snakes swallow their prey whole. *Xenochrophis piscator* is a very common and widely distributed snake in Bangladesh. They inhabit all types of freshwater bodies including ponds, lakes, streams, creeks, marshes, and also in submerged paddy fields. The adult feeds on fishes, frogs, lizards and sometimes rodents and birds (Hasan et al. 2014). On 5 July 2013 around 09:20hr, an adult Checkered keelback (*Xenochrophis piscator*) was observed

feeding an adult skipper frog (*Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*). The snake had started eating the frog from the anterior part and immediately upon noticing us, left the place with its prey.

Such types of opportunistic observations can provide important records to explore the feeding biology of amphibians and reptilian fauna.

References

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Acknowledgements

Authors are grateful to Prof. Dr. Mohammed Mostafa Feeroz and Dr. M. Kamrul Hasan for their great inspiration.

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Citation: Datta, A.K. & S. Khaledin (2017). Observations on an Indian Bull Frog swallowing an Asian Common Toad, and a Checkered Keelback on a Skipper Frog. frog leg#132, In: *Zoo's Print* 32(6): 28:29