



## Short Communication

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON *XENOPHRYS ZUNHEBOTOENSIS* MATHEW & SEN, 2007 (AMPHIBIA: ANURA: MEGOPHRYIDAE) AND RANGE EXTENSION IN MEGHALAYA, INDIA.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Xenophrys* is represented by 9 species (*X. boettgeri*, *X. glandulosa*, *X. kempii*, *X. major*, *X. parva*, *X. robusta*, *X. serchhipii*, *X. wuliangshanensis*, and *X. zunhebotoensis*) in North East India (Mathew & Sen, 2010). Recently, 2 new species of *Xenophrys*, *X. serchhipii* and *X. zunhebotoensis* were described from Mizoram and Nagaland, respectively (Mathew & Sen, 2007). So far, these 2 new species are known from their type locality only. The authors came across a specimen of male *Xenophrys* collected from East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya and present in the unidentified holdings of NERC/ZSI, Shillong. After thorough study it was identified as *X. zunhebotoensis* (V/A/ERS/1009) (Plate-I). This is the first record outside its type locality, after the species was described more than 4 years ago. Besides, both the Holotype and Paratype of this species present in the holdings of NERC/ZSI, Shillong were also studied for proper identification and comparison.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

### MATERIAL EXAMINED

One specimen of *X. zunhebotoensis* (V/A/ERS/1009) was studied. The specimen was collected by one survey team of NERC/ZSI, Shillong from Mawmluh, (N 25°13'54", E 91°41'0.8", Altitude 739 meters ASL) near Cherrapunjee, from East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya on 25/10/ 2010.

### DIAGNOSIS

Head is broader than long, nostril is closer to eye, supratympanic glandular fold is white and distinct, curving on the anterior region of the tympanum to give it a round shape. Fingers free

with swollen disc. Hind limbs slender, TTA reach middle of eye, digits free with swollen discs. Dorsum is smooth with few ridges and warts. A dark triangular patch between the orbit; a broad incomplete 'V' shaped ridge behind the eye, another similar ridge of inverted 'V' towards the posterior side making an indistinct and incomplete hourglass pattern on the dorsum. 2 parallel lines on either side of the 'V' shaped ridge. Flanks with small round tubercles. Ventrally abdomen and thighs are off white with light round blotches. Axial and femoral glands are prominent (Mathew & Sen, 2009).

### DISCUSSION

Although in the original description the SVL was between 30 mm to 39 mm, the new specimen is having SVL of 55 mm. Another difference that was noticed was the distinct ridges on the dorsum of the specimen unlike the smooth ridges of the types described. Moreover, the body of the specimen was stout, whereas the type specimens were soft and weak.

### DISTRIBUTION

Nagaland and Meghalaya

### REMARKS

This is the first record of the species from Meghalaya and outside its type locality in Nagaland.

### ABBREVIATION

ASL : Above Sea Level  
NERC/ZSI : North Eastern Regional Centre/  
Zoological Survey of India  
SVL : Snout Vent Length

V/A/ERS : Vertebrate/Amphibia/Eastern  
Regional Station (Erstwhile name  
of NERC)

TTA : Tibio Tarsal Articulation

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the Director,  
Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata for providing

facilities. The authors are also grateful to Mrs.  
Jennifer Lyngdoh, Scientis -C and the Officer-in-  
Charge, North Eastern Regional Centre, Zoological  
Survey of India, Shillong for giving proper  
guidance. The authors are also, grateful to Sri Amit  
Rana and his party for collecting the specimen from  
their survey tour.



A. *Xenophrys zunhebotoensis* Mathew and Sen  
Dorsal view



B. *Xenophrys zunhebotoensis* Mathew and Sen  
Ventral view

#### REFERENCES

- Mathew, R. and N. Sen, 2007. Description of two new species of *Xenophrys* (Amphibia: Anura: Megophryidae) from North East India, *Cobra*, Vol. - I (2), 18-28.
- Mathew, R. and N. Sen, 2009. Studies on little known Amphibians of North East India. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India, Occ. Paper No.*, 293:28-29
- Mathew, R. and N. Sen, 2010. Pictorial Guide to Amphibians of North East India. *Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata*: 54-61.

**BHASKAR SAIKIA AND NIBEDITA SEN**

*North Eastern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India,  
Shillong-793003*