



AN UNUSUAL MISLEAD COMMUNICATION BEHAVIOUR OF *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (SCHNEIDER, 1799) (AMPHIBIA: BUFONIDAE) AND *Polypedates cruciger* BLYTH, 1852 (AMPHIBIA: RHACOPHORIDAE) AT A HUMAN HABITATION IN SRI LANKA

Submitted: 12 January 2009, Accepted: 15 January 2009

W. Gayan M. Edirisinghe¹ and A. A. Thasun Amarasinghe^{2,3}

¹ The Young Zoologists' Association of Sri Lanka, Department of National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka.

² Taprobanica Nature Conservation Society, 146, Kendalanda, Homagama, Sri Lanka.

³ Corresponding author: aathasun@gmail.com

Abstract

Duttaphrynus melanostictus and *Polypedates cruciger* are common amphibians in Sri Lanka, being sympatric in many habitats, while *P. cruciger* is endemic to the island. This is the first published observation on an unusual mislead communication behavior on *D. melanostictus* and *P. cruciger* at a human habitat in Sri Lanka. Considering the field observation, we can assume both *D. melanostictus* and *P. cruciger* males may accidentally catch almost immediately without identifying each other properly in their breeding periods. We suggest that these amphibians communicate with their unique call but their eyesight is not developed to identify its partner easily.

Key Words: *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, *Polypedates cruciger*, unusual communication behavior, Sri Lanka

Introduction

There are 109 species of amphibians in Sri Lanka and 92 of them are endemic. Also further new species will be described in the future (Meegaskumbura *et al.*, 2002). These 109 species are classified under seven families; Ichthyophiidae,

Bufonidae, Dicroglossidae, Microhylidae, Ranidae, Nyctibatrachidae and Rhacophoridae (Frost *et al.*, 2006). Family Bufonidae is one of the most common amphibian families in south and Southeast Asia (Pough *et al.*, 2004). Bufonidae consists of