AMPHIBIANS FROM ARALAM WILDLIFE SANCRUARY WESTERN GHATS, KERALA

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INTRODUCTION

The present paper constitutes results of the studies on 16 species of Amphibia collected by the author and his colleagues during three field trips conducted in the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary of Kerala. The sanctuary is located at 11° 53' N - 11° 59' latitude and 75° 46' E - 75° 56' E longitude in the Kannanore district of Kerala. The Sanctuary notified on 25 August, 1984 covers an area of 55 sq km falling partly in the vested forests and partly in the Brahmagiri slopes of the Western Ghats. The area ranges in elevation from 60m to 1589m above sea level. This is the only protected area of west coast tropical evergreen forest of Dipterocarpus-Mesua-Palaquium type. The drainage basin of the sanctuary is the Aralampuzha.

The literatures used for the taxonomic studies were that of Boulenger (1890,1904), Daniel (1963,1975), Daniel and Sekar (1989), Inger *et.al* (1984), Pillai (1978, 1979, 1981, 1986), Pillai and Murthy (1986), Pillai and Pattabiraman (1981, 1991), Satyamurthi(1967) and Taylor(1961).

SPECIES ACCOUNT

1.*Ichthyophis malabarensis*
Material examined: 1 ex., Narikkadavu.
Total length: 173mm.
Status: Uncommon

2. *Ichthyophis tricolor*
Material examined: 1ex., Uruppukunnu; 1ex., Karimkappu.
Total length: 133 - 158 mm.
Status: Fairly common.

3. *Uraeotyphlus menoni*
Material examined: 5exs. (Juveniles), Ramachi.
Total length: 65 - 72mm.
Status: Uncommon.

4. *Bufo melanostictus*
Material examined: 5 exs.(Juveniles), Kottiyoor R.F. (Aralam Part), 1ex., near Aralam farm.
Snout - vent (SV) length: 15-39mm.
Status: Common.

5. *Micrixalus saxicolus*
Material examined: 3 exs., Kottiyoor R.F. (Aralam part): 1ex., Parippinthodu;
Snout - vent length: 15 - 22mm.
Status: Common.

6. *Nyctibatrachus major*
Material examined: 1 ex., Ambayamthodu; 4 exs., Ramachi; 2exs., Parippinthodu; 1 ex., Karimkappu; 6 exs., Narikkadavu, (Juveniles, Subadults and adults);
Snout - vent length: 9- 28 mm.
Status: Common.

7. *Rana beddomii*
Material examined: 7 exs., Ambayamthodu; 4 exs., Ramachi; 8 exs., Parippinthodu; 7 exs., Uruppukunnu; 2 exs., Kurukkathodu; 1 exs., Karimkappu; 3 exs., Narikkadvu.
Snout - vent length: 17 - 40mm.
Status: Common on forest streams.

8. *Rana brevipalmata*
Material examined: 3 exs. (Juveniles), Kottiyoor R.F. (Aralam part).
Snout - vent length: 9 - 17mm
Status: Uncommon.

9. *Occidozyga cyanophlyctis*
Material examined: 5 exs., Kottiyoor R.F..(Aralam part); 4 exs., Ambayamthodu; 1 ex., Parippinthodu; 2 exs., Urupukunnu; 4 exs., Narikkadavu.
Snout - vent length: 32 -60 mm.
Status: Common.

10. *Occidozyga hexadactyla*
Material examined: 2 exs. (Juveniles) Narikkadavu.
Snout - vent length: 21 mm.
Status: Common

11. *Rana leithii*
Material examined: 1 ex., Ramachi.
Snout - vent Length: 22 mm
Status: Uncommon in Kerala.

12. *Limnonectes limnocharis*
Material examined: 4 exs., Kottiyoor R.F. (Aralam Part) ; 1 ex., Uruppukunnu; 1 ex., Kurukkathodu; 5 exs., Narikkadavu.
Snout - vent length: 27 - 37 mm.
Status: Common.

13. *Rana temporalis*
Material examined: 1ex., Kottiyoor R.F. (Arala part); 4 exs., Paripinthodu; 3 exs., Uruppukunnu; 8 exs., Kurukkathodu; 5 exs., Narikkadavu. (Juveniles, subadults and adults).
Snout - vent length: 13-74 mm.
Status: Common.

14. *Tomopterna rufescens*
Material examined: 9 exs., Kottiyoor R.F. (Aralam part); 1 ex., near Aralam farm.
Snout - vent length: 21 - 40mm.
Status: Uncommon.

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