

A NEW SPECIES OF *KALOULA* (ANURA: MICROHYLIDAE) FROM NORTH-EASTERN INDIA

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(with four text-figures)

ABSTRACT.— A new species of microhylid of the genus *Kaloula* is described from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh states, north-east India. *Kaloula assamensis* new species, is compared with congeners from south and south-east Asia. The new species is diagnosable in showing the following combination of characters: SVL up to 38.0 mm; tympanum not externally visible; choanae rounded, moderately large, at anterolateral edge of palate, separated by a distance greater than twice their length; postnarial ridges across palate not curving backwards towards inner edge of choanae; finger tips slightly dilated; subarticular tubercles prominent, rounded; webbing on pes to level of distal subarticular tubercles, except on toe IV, where it is to the medial tubercle, reaching tips of all toes as a narrow sheath; toe tips slightly rounded; supernumerary tubercle at base of each digit of manus; tarsus smooth, lacking folds; supratympanic fold extends from posterior edge of eye to above insertion of forelimbs; lateral glandular flank ridge absent; abdomen coarsely granular; pale brown dorsally, with a dark-edged bright yellow vertebral stripe, commencing from tip of snout and terminating near vent, where it becomes less distinct; a dark-edged broad dark brown lateral stripes, commencing from the postocular region, and extending to inguinal region; stratified colouration on posterior face of thighs and flanks; and light pericloacal ring present.

KEYWORDS.— *Kaloula*, new species, *Kaloula assamensis*, Microhylidae, systematics, new species, India.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Kaloula* (Anura: Microhylidae) is at present known to contain 15 nominal species (Diesmos et al., 2002; Iskandar & Colijn, 2000; Dutta, 1997), its members distributed from Sri Lanka and India, east through southern China and Indo-China, Indo-Malaya and the Philippines (Frost, 1985).

North-eastern India is arguably one of the most poorly surveyed regions of tropical Asia, the herpetofauna of the region virtually unknown. Knowledge of the fauna rests largely on

a field guide by Chanda (1994) that enumerates species collected in the last 150 years. More recently, faunal lists, species descriptions, range extensions and accounts on the biology of individual species have appeared (e.g., Bordoloi et al., 2000; Choudhury et al., 2001; Dutta et al., 2000; Ao and Bordoloi, 2000; Ao et al., 2003; Kiyasetuo and Khare, 1986).

We report here a new species of *Kaloula* collected from north-eastern India's Assam and Arunachal Pradesh states, which does not match any of the described species of the genus. The