

## A NEW SPECIES OF *POLYPEDATES* (ANURA: RHACOPHORIDAE) FROM GUNUNG MURUD, SARAWAK (NORTHWESTERN BORNEO)

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**ABSTRACT.** – A new species of rhacophorid of the genus *Polypedates* is described from Gunung Murud, Sarawak State, north-western Borneo. *Polypedates chlorophthalmus*, new species is compared with congeners from Borneo and other parts of southeast Asia. The new species is diagnosable in showing the following combination of characters: SVL 62.1 mm in the unique holotype; snout rounded, not projecting beyond mandible; head slightly wider than long; canthus rostralis sloping; no dermal flap along forearm; supracloacal fold absent; skin not co-ossified to cranial bones, median lingual process absent; supratympanic fold distinct; dorsum brown, with a thin dark gray line at back of forehead, nearly converging at the axilla, lacking dark lines; lower flanks and anterior edge of thighs with dark blotches; throat with dark pigmentation; and iris bright green.

**KEY WORDS.** – *Polypedates*, new species, *Polypedates chlorophthalmus*, Rhacophoridae, systematics, new species, Borneo.

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### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Polypedates* (Anura: Rhacophoridae), as defined by Brown and Alcalá (1994), is known to contain 16 nominal species, of which 10 occur in southeast Asia (Glaw et al., 2000; Frost, 1985, also the internet version, Frost, 2004; Iskandar & Colijn, 2000). The members of the genus are distributed from southern China, Sri Lanka and southwestern and northeastern India south to Indo-China and Indo-Malaya (Frost, 1985). Of these, four species have been reported from Borneo (Inger & Stuebing, 1997; Inger & Tan, 1996).

The herpetofauna of Gunung Murud, the highest mountain in Sarawak (2,423 m ASL), has been poorly sampled. The present day knowledge of the fauna derives from the collections made by the Swedish naturalist and adventurer, Eric Georg Mjöberg (1882–1938), Curator of the Sarawak Museum, in 1922. Mjöberg's herpetological collections were published by Smith (1925), and Mjöberg (1925) himself described this expedition in detail, enumerating collection localities. We commenced long-term field work in Gunung Murud, Sarawak, since 2003, with the goal of inventorying the herpetological diversity of the mountain range, collecting a number of novelties in the process.

A new species of *Polypedates*, which does not match any of the described species of the genus from Borneo or from any

other part of south-east Asia, is here described, based on the recent collections from Gunung Murud. The species is allocated to *Polypedates* for showing the following characters considered diagnostic for the genus, according to the concept of Liem, 1970 (see also Inger, 1966): fingers free of webbing; tips of digits disk-like, with circummarginal grooves; vomerine teeth present; eyes large, with horizontal pupil; dermal tarsal and anal folds absent; and dorsum dark brown. Although the genus *Polypedates* has been considered synonymous with *Rhacophorus* by some authorities, based on morphology (e.g., Dubois, 1986; 1992) or acoustic data (Matsui & Wu, 1994), phylogenies of the group, based on a reanalysis of data in Liem (1970) show support for the validity of the genus (see Channing, 1989; Wilkinson & Drewes, 2000; Wilkinson et al., 2002).

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The holotype was collected at ca. 2100 h, photographed in life, fixed in formalin ca. 4 h after collection and subsequently washed in water and transferred to 70% ethanol about 8 weeks after collection. The following measurements were taken with Mitutoyo™ dial vernier calipers (to the nearest 0.1 mm), 4 months after collection: snout-vent length (SVL, from tip of snout to vent); tibia length (TBL, distance between surface of knee to surface of heel, with both tibia and tarsus flexed);