

Limnonectes shompenorum, a new species of ranid frog of the *Rana macrodon* complex from Great Nicobar, India

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Abstract

Limnonectes shompenorum, a new species of ranid of the *Rana macrodon* complex, from Great Nicobar Island, India, is described. *Limnonectes shompenorum* can be differentiated from congeners of the species complex by a combination of the following characters: a head that is narrower than the body, and longer than broad; interorbital distance greater than the upper eyelid width; fingers with movable dermal fringe; tips of fingers weakly swollen; finger 4 longer than finger 2; completely webbed toes; presence of a dark, horizontal loreal stripe; absence of the inverted V-shaped fold on the scapular region; and partially pigmented eggs.

Key words: Anura; Ranidae; *Limnonectes shompenorum*; *Rana macrodon*; Nicobar; India.

Introduction

Limnonectes macrodon was described by Duméril et al. (1841) based on material from Java and Celebes (= Sulawesi), Indonesia. Inger (1954), in his review of the Philippine amphibians, considered four large aquatic ranid species then assigned to the genus *Rana* (*R. acanthi*, *R. magna*, *R. macrocephala* and *R. visayanus*), to be subspecies of *Rana macrodon*. In a later paper however, Inger (1958) separated these taxa from *R. macrodon* because they possessed vocal sacs and eggs with densely-pigmented hemispheres. Subsequent workers reported *R. macrodon* to be widespread in the Sunda region, including Borneo, Sumatra, Mentawai Islands, the Malay Peninsula and the Riau Archipelago (Inger, 1966). In his monograph of the genus *Rana*, Boulenger (1920) described a "variety" of *R. macrodon*, *R. m. blythi*, which Inger (1966) considered a full species, basing his opinion on features such as the relatively long hind limbs and narrower head, and on noticing the sympatry of *R. macrodon* and *R. blythi* in Borneo. Kiew (1984) subdivided the broad-headed taxon further into two

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