

SHORT NOTES

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**A NEW SPECIES OF *SCUTIGER*
(ANURA: MEGOPHRYIDAE) FROM
NAGALAND, NORTH-EASTERN
INDIA**

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The anuran genus *Scutigera*, assigned by some (e.g. Frost, 1985 and Duellman, 1993) to the family Pelobatidae, and by other more recent workers (e.g. Fu *et al.*, 1997; Fu & Murphy, 1997) to Megophryidae, contains 32 nominal species. While the apparent centre of radiation of the genus is China, three species (*S. nyingchiensis* Fei, 1977; *S. occidentalis* Dubois, 1977 and *S. sikimensis* Blyth, 1854) have been recorded from India (Inger & Dutta, 1986; Dutta, 1997). Until now, a single species, *S. sikimensis*, has been recorded from the north-eastern region of India (see Chanda, 1994). A well-preserved adult male *Scutigera* received by the Zoological Survey of India serves as the basis for the description of a new species. The material was collected from Nagaland, in north-eastern India.

Measurements were taken with a Mitutoyo™ dial vernier calliper (to the nearest 0.1 mm) from specimens in 70 per cent ethanol. The following measurements were taken: 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); trunk length, TL (distance between posterior edge of forelimb at its insertion to body to anterior edge of hind limb at its insertion to body); head length, HL (distance between angle of jaws and snout-tip); head width, HW (measured at angle of jaws); head depth, HD (greatest transverse depth of head, taken at the posterior of the orbital region); eye diameter, ED (diameter of eye); interorbital width, IO (least distance between upper eyelids); internarial distance, IN (distance between nostrils); eye to snout-tip distance, E-S (distance between anterior-most point of eyes to tip of snout); eye to nostril distance, E-N (distance between anterior-most point of eyes and nostrils); and diameter of disk on finger II, FIID (width of disk at tip of finger II).

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Measurements of fingers and toes were taken from base of each phalange to tip, on right fore and hind limbs, respectively. Sex was determined through examination of gonad.

SCUTIGER MOKOKCHUNGENSIS SP. NOV.

Holotype. ZSI A 8889 (adult male, with enlarged testes), from Mokokchung (26° 20'N; 94° 30'E), alt. ca. 1200 m above msl., Nagaland State, north-eastern India. Coll. Veena Tandon, 1996.

Diagnosis. A large species of *Scutigera* (SVL 87.2 mm in a mature male), that shows the following characteristics: interorbital region lacking tubercles; eye diameter about twice orbit-nostril distance; tongue small, oval; no spinous processes on tubercles of dorsum; undersurface of tibia without tubercles; a single pair of smooth, subtriangular axillary glands; nuptial pads absent; toes with large subarticular tubercles; toe IV webbing, on inner side, broadly to basal subarticular tubercle, reaching base of digit tip as a fringe, and on outer side, as a fringe of skin to base of digit tip; elongated, compressed, inner metatarsal tubercle; and maxillary and vomerine teeth present.

Description. Large body size (SVL 87.2 mm); habitus robust, bufonid-like, with a relatively narrow waist; head wide (HW/SVL ratio 0.36), exceeding length (HL/HW ratio 0.78), snout flattened (HL/HD ratio 0.33), rounded, projecting beyond mandible; nostrils equidistant from snout tip and orbit (E-N/E-S ratio 0.51); canthus rostralis sloping; lores not flattened. Eye large (ED/HL ratio 0.35), eye diameter about twice orbit-nostril distance (ED/E-N ratio 1.98), interorbital distance nearly twice width of upper eyelid (IO/UE ratio 1.94); no dermal fold in interorbital region; internarial region wide (IN/ED ratio 0.91); supratympanic fold glandular, commencing from the posterior border of orbit to a little over the forearm; tympanum absent; nares dorso-laterally oriented, protuberant, and slit-like in shape. Vomerine teeth in two oblique series, in a line between median-posterior of choanae, separated by a distance less than length of each group (vomerine length 2.2 mm; intervomerine distance 1.8 mm). Inferior aspect of snout weakly nicked; inner margin of mandible juncture with a slight w-shaped notch, without two sharp odontoids near symphysis. Tongue small (18.2 mm in length), oval (14.8 mm in width), its dorsal surface covered with papillae; weakly bifid, free posteriorly for 45.1 per cent of length. Vocal sac single, median, subgular. Sternum ossified, rounded posteriorly.

Forearm robust; tips of fingers swollen, but not dilated into disks; fingers free; relative lengths of fingers (measurements in parentheses; in mm): 3 (17.9) > 4 (13.8) > 2 (13.0) > 1 (10.7). Thigh muscular; tibia robust, long (TBL/SVL ratio 0.52); tips of toes weakly swollen but not disk-like; large, oval subarticular tubercles on hand and foot. Webbing reaches: toe I (outer) broadly to base of digit tip; (inner) as fringe to base of