

weighed, measured and photographed on 28th June, right after hatching, by B.C. Choudhury. Average weight was 20.6 grams.

#### Recommendations

The tri-state area of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka appears to be an area of prime importance to star tortoises, despite the heavily degraded condition of the vegetation and soil. A more thorough survey of this area is warranted, with longer studies of natural history of the star tortoise. It would be possible to hire local people with good knowledge of the fauna to assist.

#### Acknowledgements

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#### ON A COLLECTION OF SOME AMPHIBIA AND CHELONIA FROM MEGHALAYA

The State of Meghalaya lies between 25°47' and 25°10' north latitudes and 89°45' and 92°47' east longitudes and comprises an area of 22,549 sq.km. The herpetofauna of the state is rather well known, compared to that of the other north-eastern states of India.

Between June and July 1988, I surveyed the Khasi and Garo Hills of Meghalaya, as part of a bigger project on the distribution and status of land tortoises and freshwater turtles of north-eastern India, supported by the IUCN/WWF (Project 6343). Reported herein are the anurans and chelonians collected during the survey.

Measurements given include: Snout-vent length (SV) of anurans and curved carapace length (CCL) and plastron length (notch to notch) (PL), of chelonians.

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A M P H I B I A

ANURA: PELOBATIDAE

1. Megophrys monticola Kuhl & Van Hasselt 1822.

Material: 2 examples, SV 2.46 and 4.27 cm. from Lailad, Nongkhyllom Reserve Forest, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya.

The 2 examples were collected at night, from the edge of forest paths after the rains. The species has been previously reported from Shillong Peak, Khasi Hills by Pillai and Chanda (1979) and Rongrongiri, Garo Hills by Pillai and Chanda (1981), but unlisted in the review by Inger and Dutta (1987).

ANURA: RANIDAE

2. Rana gorbillus Annandale 1912.

Material: 1 example, SV 4.67 cm. from Nokrek National Park, West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya.

The frog was collected during the day from under a boulder near a stream.

Annandale (1912) described the species based on material from the Abor Hills, Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. Subsequently, Pillai and Chanda (1979) collected it from Nawbland, near Cherrapunji, in the East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya and most recently, Chanda (1986) reported the species from Mirik Darjeeling District, West Bengal.

R E P T I L I A

CHELONIA: TESTUDINIDAE

3. Mancuria emys (Schlegel & Muller 1844).

Material: 2 examples, a carapace, CCL ca. 60 cm. and a plastron, PL 35 cm. from Nongkhyllom Reserve Forest, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.

Both examples were obtained from forest villages, where the tortoises were consumed by the tribals. Smith (1931) included Cachar in Assam and the Naga Hills, now in Nagaland, in the distribution of the species and therefore the present material constitutes the first record of the species from Meghalaya.

I assign them to the northern subspecies phayrei since the pectorals are joined and the shell colour is blackish.

CHELONIA: EMYDIDAE

4. Melanochelys trijuga (Schuëgiger 1814).

Material: 1 example, a broken carapace, CCL 25 cm. from Lallad, Nongkhylam Reserve Forest, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya.

None of the 5 recognised subspecies of Melanochelys trijuga have been so far recorded from north-eastern India. The subspecies indoponinsularis has been recently seen at the Manas Tiger Reserve, Assam (Das 1988) with other reports from northern West Bengal and Bihar, while edeniana occurs throughout Burma. Subspecific allocation of the present material has not been made since the soft parts are unpreserved.

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