

SHORT COMMUNICATION

NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD OF *PELOPHRYNE API* DRING, 1983 (ANURA: BUFONIDAE) FROM SARAWAK, EAST MALAYSIA

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Photo Caption

Collared Kingfisher by Anuar Mc Afee.
Pelophyrne api by Nooraina Atira Alaudin.
Gomphidae by Wahizatul Afzam Azmi.

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Abstract: *Pelophyrne api* (Bufonidae), formerly only discovered at Mount Api, Mulu was recently found at the limestone of Bau, Kuching. Morphological observations of the two individuals of *P. api* discovered matched the original diagnosis description of the holotype species by Dring (1983). The habitats of the recently discovered individuals are closely similar to that of the holotype species as well, remarkably the leaves of low plants at limestone area. The recent collections of *P. api* leads to suggestion that this species may occur at other limestone areas in Borneo and further field survey at the Bornean limestone areas are needed.

Key words: *Pelophyrne api*, Mulu, Bau, Sarawak, limestone

Introduction

The first individual of *Pelophyrne api* was discovered at camp five, base of Mount Api, Gunung Mulu National Park in northern Sarawak and was described by Julian Dring (1983) as endemic to Borneo. This paper documents a new distribution record of *P. api* in Bau, Kuching. On 20 September 2016, at 2025 hour, two adult individuals of *P. api* (DKNP 005 (male) and DKNP 006 (female)) were encountered and collected from the trail of Simpang Kuda, in the Bau region of Kuching Division, Sarawak,

East Malaysia (N 01°24.109', E 110°10.767'). The individuals were collected under research permit no NCCD.907.4.4. (JLD 13) – 271. The toads were first photographed before being captured with bare hands. Both individuals were euthanized, before tissue samples were taken for molecular work. After the tissue isolation, the samples were fixed in 4% formalin (Zainudin *et al.*, 2010). Then, the samples were preserved in 70 % ethanol and kept at UNIMAS Museum, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia (Zainudin *et al.*, 2010).



Figure 1: Dorsolateral view of *Pelophyrne api*. Photo by Nooraina Atira Alaudin.