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Cover: A gravid praying mantis just before she laid her ootheca—digital art on procreate. © Aakanksha Komanduri.



Small Paa Frog and Marbled Cascade Frog are not endemic to Nepal: a response to Tachamo-Shah et al. 2023

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Ramaroshan area is one of the prominent biodiversity-rich area outside the protected area network of Nepal and recently the researches on the aspect of biodiversity is gradually increasing (Acharaya et al. 2023; Tachamo-Shah et al. 2023), which is encouraging. We need baseline information on the species' distribution and abundance upon which tailored conservation measures can be initiated. However, this information should be based on the facts and evidence. Recently, Tachamo-Shah et al. 2023 have published an article entitled 'Wetland biodiversity of Ramaroshan Lake complex: a need for conservation' on JoTT 26 December 2023 issue. Much information in the article is promising, highlighting the additional attention the area should receive for conservation. However, there are some aspects, particularly those related to conservation status and endemism of amphibian species which is misleading, making me to realize to write this response.

Endemism of species

The authors have mentioned two species of herpetofauna namely Small Paa Frog *Nanorana minica* and Marbled Cascade Frog *Amolops marmoratus* as endemic species (Tachamo-Shah et al. 2023). According to the IUCN Red List Assessment of the Small Paa Frog, the species is found in Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh of India and Bhutan (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, 2022) which means they are not endemic to Nepal. Furthermore, the presence of *Amolops marmoratus* is mentioned with certainty for Myanmar only while for other regions the presence has been uncertain (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, 2023a). Without photographic and other evidence, it is difficult to ascertain that the species has been identified properly.

Conservation status of the species

The authors have mentioned the wrong conservation status for amphibian species. For instances, they have mentioned the Small Paa Frog as globally vulnerable species and the Indian Bull Frog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* as near threatened species (Tachamo-Shah et al. 2023). The Small Paa Frog is currently listed as the least concerned species (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2022). The species was listed as vulnerable species in previous assessment conducted in 2004. This could be due to the status being updated recently, possibly after the paper was submitted to the journal.

In the case of the Indian Bull Frog, the species was listed as least concerned species in previous assessment and it holds the same status in the recent assessment as well (IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group 2023b).

Other issues

The name of the Liebig's Paa Frog is *Nanorana liebigii* which has been mentioned as *Nanorana leibgii* in the manuscript. Furthermore, despite Ramaroshan's potential as site for Red Panda distribution, there is not enough evidence to support the presence of the species. However, they have failed to provide the details information about the means of confirmation.

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Conclusion

Despite the attempts of the authors to bring the information on the status of important yet neglected wetland of Western Nepal, some information on the journal article needs reassessment and verification.

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Notes

Potential first record of parrotfish *Scarus zufar* (Randall & Hoover, 1995) (Actinopterygii: Labriformes: Scaridae) from Indian waters, at Netrani Island, Karnataka, India

– Farai Divan-Patel, Abhishek Jamalabad, Venkatesh Charloo & Jeremy Josh, Pp. 25101–25102

First record of the phoretic association between *Pediculaster* sp. (Pygmephoridae) mites and *Musca crassirostris* (Muscidae) flies in India

– Ramandeep Achint & Devinder Singh, Pp. 25103–25106

Uniyala multibracteata (Gamble) H. Rob. & Skvarla (Asteraceae: Vernoniae): notes on its identity and rediscovery

– Reshma Raju, Joby Joseph, K.S. Divya, Chethana Badekar & Jomy Augustine, Pp. 25107–25110

Addition of two wild jasmines (*Jasminum caudatum* and *J. grandiflorum*) to Sikkim Himalaya, India

– Pramod Rai & Prakash Limboo, Pp. 25111–25113

Extended distribution of *Ceropegia bhatii* S.R. Yadav & Shendage (Apocynaceae)—an endemic plant from Haveri District, Karnataka, India

– Ningaraj S. Mankanur & K. Kotresha, Pp. 25114–25116

Response

Small Paa Frog and Marbled Cascade Frog are not endemic to Nepal: a response to Tachamo-Shah et al. 2023

– Chandramani Aryal, Pp. 25117–25118

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