

**A NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD OF A RARE TOAD, *BUFO
HOLOLIUS* GUNTHER (AMPHIBIA : BUFONIDAE)**

C. RADHAKRISHNAN

Western Ghats Field Research Station, Zoological Survey of India, Calicut - 673 002

and

M. S. RAVICHANDRAN

Southern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai - 600 028

While studying literature on the Amphibian fauna recorded from Southern India, the first author came across an important reference (Satyamurti, 1967) on the distributional record of a rare toad *Bufo hololius* Gunther which appears to have not been referred by Pillai and Ravichandran (1991). Therefore it was felt necessary to update the information on the distributional record of this rare toad.

Bufo hololius (Amphibia : Bufonidae) was originally described by Gunther (1875) based on a specimen recorded from Malabar. Later, Boulenger (1882, 1890), Thurston (1888) and Daniel (1963) referring Gunther (1875) mentioned that the species was known till then only from Malabar.

Satyamurti (1967) studied three specimens of the species deposited in the Madras Government Museum Collected from Chittoor and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh, thereby extending the range of the species considerably beyond its original limits.

Pillai and Ravichandran (1991) while redescribing the species based on a specimen available in the Fresh Water Biology Station of the Zoological Survey of India, Hyderabad, Collected from Nagarjuna sagar, Andhra Pradesh on 18-9-1980 by D. M. Mahato, state that the specimen studied by them constitutes an important record having been collected after a gap of 115 years. Further, according to Pillai and Ravichandran (1991), their record of the species from Nagarjunasagar extends the range of its earlier distribution far eastwards to the Eastern Ghats and that the specimen studied by them is the only one available in India, as the type material of the species is deposited in the British Museum of Natural History, London by Gunther.

One specimen of *B. hololius* Gunther displayed in the gallery of Madras Govt. Museum has since been examined by the second author of this paper and found to be in conformity with the details provided by Satyamurti (1967).

Satyamurti (1967) having already established the extension of range of *B. hololius* Gunther eastward (Chittoor and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh) from its earlier known distribution (Malabar) based on the three specimens deposited in the Madras Govt. Museum, the specimen studied by Pillai and Ravichandran (1991) from Nagarjunasagar, Andhra Pradesh forms only the

fourth specimen available in India. Accordingly, *B. hololius* Gunther is so far known to occur in Chittoor, Nellore districts of Nagarjun valley in Andhra Pradesh besides its type locality in Malabar.

The snout to vent length of the specimens studied by Gunther from Malabar, Satyamurti from Chittoor (one specimen), Nellore (two specimens) districts of Andhra Pradesh and Pillai and Ravichandran from Nagarjunasagar, Andhra Pradesh are 38 mm, 51 mm, 46 mm, 52 mm, and 35.5 mm respectively.

Gunther (1875), Satyamurti (1967) and Pillai and Ravichandran (1991) have provided sketches of the specimens studied by them.

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