

ZOOLOGICAL RESULTS OF THE INDIAN CHO-OYU  
EXPEDITION (1958) IN NEPAL

PART 5.—AMPHIBIA

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(With 1 Plate)

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I—INTRODUCTION

The following account is based on the collections made from Nepal, by Dr. A. K. Datta, in March-June, 1958, during the Indian Cho-Oyu Expedition (1,307-2,895 m. or 4,290 ft.-9,500 ft. altitude), at and around Panchkhal (1,307-1,577 m. or 4,290-5,175 ft.), Risingo (2,134 m. or 7,000 ft.), Taksindhu (2,804 m. or 9,200 ft.) and Chagna (2,896 m. or 9,500 ft.). Four species of the family Ranidae, viz., *Rana cyanophlyctis* Schneider, *R. limnocharis* Wiegmann, *Staurois afghanus* (Gunther) and *S. himalayana* Boulenger, are represented in the collection. *S. himalayana*, was hitherto known only from Darjeeling District (India) in the Eastern Himalayas and is now being recorded from Nepal.

The following abbreviations have been used :—Alt. m., altitude, in metres ; exs., examples (*i. e.*, number of individuals) ; Sta. No., collecting Station Number.

II—SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Class AMPHIBIA

Order ECAUDATA

Family RANIDAE

Genus 1. **Rana** Linnaeus

**1. Rana cyanophlyctis** Schneider

1799. *Rana cyanophlyctis*, Schneider, *Hist. Amphibia*, Friederii, 1, p. 137. (*Type-loc.*: India Orientali.)

1920. *Rana cyanophlyctis*, Boulenger, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, Calcutta, 20, p. 12.

*Material*.—(i) 1 ex., Sta. No. 2B, Panchkhal, ca. 1,307 m. (4,290 ft.)  
27.iii.58. (ii) 1 ex., Sta. No. 2A, Panchkhal, ca. 1,577 m. (5,175 ft.) in

a small pool, 27. iii. 58. (iii) 3 exs., Sta. No. 2A, Panchkhal, 8 miles east of Banipa, 27. iii. 58.

*Systematic and other remarks.*—Fingers rather pointed ; toes with the tips swollen, with very broad web nearly reaching the tips, the free border very feebly emarginate ; outer metatarsals separated nearly to the base ; a strong dermal fringe on the outer toe ; a small but very prominent, pointed digitiform inner metatarsal tubercle, its base about  $\frac{1}{5}$  the length of the inner toe, no outer tubercle. Lower parts smooth and devoid of the series of small porous warts on the lower parts, thus distinguishing its from *R. hexadactyla* which is its closest ally.

*Distribution.*—The species occurs in Ceylon, India, including the Himalayas, upto 1,828 m. (6,000 ft.) and westwards into Afghanistan, Baluchistan and South Arabia. It is now being recorded from Panchkhal in Nepal.

## 2. *Rana limnocharis* Wiegmann

1835. *Rana limnocharis*, Wiegmann, *N. Acta. Ac. Leop. Carol.*, Halle, 17, p. 255.

1920. *Rana limnocharis*, Boulenger, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, Calcutta, 20, p. 28.

*Material.*—(i) 2 exs., Sta. No. 2A, Panchkhal, ca. 1,577 m. (5,175 ft.) in a small shallow pool, 27.iii.58. (ii) 4 exs., Sta. No. 2A, Panchkhal, 8 miles east of Banipa, 27.iii.58. (iii) 1 tadpole, Sta. No. 5A, Risingo, ca. 2,134 m. (7,000 ft.) in a stream 2 miles down the valley from camp, 30.iii.58. (iv) 1 ex., Sta. No. 13A, Taksindu, ca. 2,804 m. (9,200 ft.) in a ditch, 7.iv.58.

*Systematic and other remarks.*—The species is easily distinguished by having the fingers obtusely pointed, and the first finger longer than the second. Hind-limb moderately long ; the tibio-tarsal articulation not reaching the tip of snout. Toes obtusely pointed, usually half webbed, outer metatarsals united in the basal half, inner metatarsal tubercle oval or elliptical, blunt, about one-third the length of the inner toe, a small outer metatarsal tubercle present. Usually all the specimens are with a V-shaped band from eye to eye.

*Tadpole.*—The tadpole mentioned in the above material seems to belong to this species. It has the tail attenuate to a rather obtuse point, about twice as long as body. Beak white, edged with black, a long marginal series of upper labial teeth with a short series on each side, 3 long uninterrupted series of lower labial teeth, outer shortest.

*Distribution.*—The species occurs in Ceylon, India, China, Malay Archipelago, eastwards to Borneo, Lombok, the Philippines and Japan. It has already been recorded from the Himalayas (Sikkim) upto 2,133 m. (7,000 ft.).

Genus 2. *Staurois* Cope3. *Staurois afghanus* (Gunther)

1858. *Polypedates afghana*, Gunther, *Cat. Batr. Sal. Brit. Mus.*, London, p. 81 (Type-loc.: Afghanistan).  
 1882. *Rana afghana*, Boulenger, *Cat. Batr. Ecaud.*, London, p. 69.  
 1890. *Rana latopalmata*, Boulenger, *Faun. Brit. India. Rep. and Amph.*, London, p. 462.  
 1920. *Rana latopalmata*, Boulenger, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, Calcutta, 20, p. 217.  
 1931. *Staurois afghanus*, Noble, *Biology of Amphibia*, New York, p. 521.  
 1950. *Staurois afghanus*, Linn., *Fieldiana (zool. m.)*, Chicago, 2, p. 358.  
 1953. *Staurois afghanus*, Kripalani, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, Delhi, 50, p. 359.

*Material.*—(i) 1 frog, Sta. No. 52A, Chagna, ca. 2,896 m. (9,500 ft.) in a rocky stream, 3.vi.58. (ii) 1 tadpole, Sta. No. 5A, Risingo, ca. 2,134 m. (7,000 ft.) in a stream two miles down the valley from camp, 30.iii.58.

*Systematic and other remarks.*—The history of the species is complicated. Günther (1858) described it from an adult female and two larvae, all supposed to have come from Afghanistan. Boulenger (1882), transferred it to the genus *Rana* and in 1890 treated it as a synonym of *Rana latopalmata* Boulenger 1882, stating that the types were not collected from Afghanistan. However, the name *afghana* Gunther has absolute priority. Noble (1931) groups all the species of genus *Rana* having tadpoles with suctorial discs under the genus *Staurois* Cope.

*Tadpole.*—The tadpole has a ventral suctorial disc, and thus unmistakably belongs to the genus *Staurois*. It is distinguished from the tadpole of *S. himalayana* Boulenger by having the dental formula 3 which in *himalayana* is 3

$$\begin{array}{r} 4+4/1+1 \\ 2 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} 5+5/1+1 \\ 2 \end{array}$$

*Distribution.*—The species has been recorded from the western Himalayas (in Kangra district) and in Nepal (eastern Himalayas) between 305—1,829 m. (1,000—6,000 ft.), Khasi hills, southern Yunnan and hills of Burma as far south as Tenasserim. This is an additional record from Nepal (Changa and Risingo.)

4. *Staurois himalayana* Boulenger

1888. *Rana himalayana*, Boulenger, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, London, (6) 2, p. 507. (Type-loc.: Darjeeling District, India).  
 1920. *Rana himalayana*, Boulenger, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, Calcutta, 20, p. 219.  
 1931. *Staurois himalayana*, Noble, *Biology of Amphibia*, New York, p. 521.  
 1953. *Staurois himalayana*, Kripalani, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, Delhi, 50, p. 361.

*Material.*—1 tadpole, Sta. No. 52A, Chagna, ca. 2,896 m. (9,500 ft.) in rocky stream, 3.vi.58.

*Systematic and other remarks.*—The single tadpole resembles that of *S. afghanus* in having a ventral suctorial disc, but differs from it in having the dental formula as 3 which in *afghanus* is 3

$$\begin{array}{r} 4+4/1+1 \\ 2 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} 5+5/1+1 \\ 2 \end{array}$$

*Distribution.*—So far it has been recorded from eastern Himalayas in Darjeeling District (India). It is now being recorded from Chagna in Nepal.

### III—SUMMARY

The report is based on a small collection of Amphibia from Nepal made by Dr. A. K. Datta of the Indian Cho-Oyu Expedition (1958). Four species, all belonging to the family Ranidae, are recorded. These are : *Rana cyanophlyctis* Schneider, *R. limnocharis* Wiegmann, *Staurois afghanus* (Günther) and *S. himalayana* Boulenger. The last mentioned is being recorded from Nepal for the first time.

### IV—REFERENCES

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