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### ***Short Communication***

## **REDISCOVERY OF ROBUST PELOBATID FROG, *XENOPHRYS ROBUSTA*, AFTER FIFTY YEARS WITH THREE COLOUR MORPHS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Robust Pelobatid from, *Xenophrys robusta* (Boulenger, 1908) was described on the basis of two specimens, a male (SVL 54 mm) and a female (SVL 114 mm), collected from the “Darjeeling hills” by J. Gammie in 1906. Subsequently Nelson Annandale collected a specimen from Sureil in 1908 and F.H. Gravely collected a specimen from Kalimpong in May, 1915 (Sankar *et al.*, 1992). The last collections were made “near Darjeeling” in June and September, 1957 as reported by J.C. Daniel (1962).

During a recent amphibian survey, we collected five specimens of the Robust Pelobatid from (*Xenophrys robusta*) in two hill-streams near Latpancher in the Darjeeling hills of northern West Bengal, India. On 28th August, 2006 a male (Male 1, Reg. No. ZSIC A10397) was collected while it was on the rock edge of a stream at altitude : 1097 m above msl (26°55'23" N and 88°23'55" E). On 29th August, 2006 a female (Reg. No. ZSIC A10401) and three males (Male 2, 3 & 4 bearing Reg. No. ZSIC A10398, A10399 & A10400 respectively) were collected on the boulders of a fast-flowing stream at altitude : 1109 m above msl (26°54'34" N and 88°23'53" E).

Two of the males (Reg. No. ZSIC A10397 & A10400) were light brown in colour on the dorsal side but the other two males (Reg. No. ZSIC A10398 & A10399) were dark grey, while the female was orange-red. Earlier George Albert Boulenger while describing the species in 1908 mentioned that these frogs had a brown dorsum. These collections by us after about fifty years show that the species has atleast three colour morphs.

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The measurements (in mm) of all the five specimens are given below :

Characteristics	Male 1 A10397	Male 2 A10398	Male 3 A10399	Male 4 A10400	Female A10401
Snout-vent length	72.65	78.45	78.65	82.55	93.35
Head length	26.35	28.20	26.45	27.70	28.35
Head width	28.15	30.25	30.95	32.10	33.45
Head depth	14.85	16.35	16.30	16.20	18.15
Eye diameter	9.05	10.25	9.75	10.55	9.90
Inter-orbital distance	9.55	9.90	9.65	9.75	11.15
Inter-narial distance	9.95	10.10	9.70	9.85	10.95
Eye-snout distance	9.75	10.15	10.70	10.85	11.35
Eye-nostril distance	4.85	5.45	5.85	6.15	7.05
Axilla-groin length	29.45	29.55	30.35	30.95	31.35
Humerus length	12.65	13.35	13.45	14.65	17.75
Radio-ulna length	15.25	16.65	16.30	16.90	21.80
Third finger length	18.25	18.55	18.85	19.25	19.60
Femur length	37.35	42.85	38.85	43.85	44.35
Tibia length	38.65	42.35	43.45	43.60	47.85
Fourth toe length	28.45	29.20	30.35	29.45	34.75

the identification of the specimens. We also thank Pratyush Mohapatra and Padam Gurung for assisting us in the field to make the collections at Latpancher.

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