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Short Communication

RANGE EXTENSION OF A TREE FROG *POLYPEDATES TAENIATUS* (BOULENGER, 1906)

Polypedates taeniatus (Boulenger, 1906) was described from Purneah District of Bihar State. Subsequently, it was reported from Dudhwa National Park, Uttar Pradesh (Ray, 1991) and Orang National Park, Assam (Ahmed and Dutta 2000).

Polypedates taeniatus (Boulenger, 1906) is a slender, smooth-skinned arboreal frog. The body is torpedo shaped. Snout-Vent length : 47 mm. Vomerine teeth in two oblique series between the choanae. Head a little longer than broad, snout truncate or obtusely acuminate, as long as the diameter of the orbit, concave nostril much nearer the end of the snout than the eye, inter orbital space broader than the upper eyelid, tympanum two third or three fourth the diameter of the eye. Fingers free, toes barely half webbed, disks moderately large, that of the third finger measuring about two fifth the diameter of the eye. Subarticular tubercles moderate. Tibio-tarsal articulation reaching the eye. Skin smooth or finely areolate above, belly granular. Purplish brown above, a narrow lighter vertebral line, a broad light band from the upper eyelid to the groin, bordered above and beneath by a dark-brown band, the lower extending over the temple and the loreal region to the end of the snout, a white streak from below the eye to the shoulder, no dark bars on the limbs, a light streak along the outer side of the tibia, lower parts white.

Compared to *P.maculatus* and *P. leucomystax* this species differs by having narrower head with vertical lores, smaller digital disks and by absence of all traces of web between the fingers.

On our survey tour in Uttar Pradesh in the month of July, 2008, 06 specimens of *Polypedates taeniatus* were collected. The collection data of which are given below.

Registration Number	Sex	Collection Area	Date of collection	Habitat
A10774	Male	Ravali Forest Area, Bijnor	21.07.2008	Crop land area collected on Maize Plant
A10775	Male	Ravali Forest Area, Bijnor	21.07.2008	Crop land area collected on Maize Plant
A10776	Male	Hastinapur Forest, Meerut	25.07.2008	Grass land area collected on tall grasses

Registration Number	Sex	Collection Area	Date of collection	Habitat
A10777	Male	Hastinapur Forest, Meerut	25.07.2008	Grass land area collected on tall grasses
A10778	Male	Ram-Ganga River bank, Moradabad	29.07.2008	Grass land area collected on grasses
A10779	Male	Ram-Ganga River bank, Moradabad	29.07.2008	Grass land area collected on grasses



Fig. 1. *Polypedates taeniatus* (Boulenger, 1906)

The presence of *P. taeniatus* in western districts of Uttar Pradesh indicates its possible occurrence in adjacent states of Uttaranchal and Haryana too. However, the occurrence of *P. taeniatus* in fair numbers in Western districts of Uttar Pradesh state extends the westward range distribution of this species for about 272 km from its earlier known distributional limits in Uttar Pradesh.

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