



Rec. zool. Surv. India : 106(Part-2) : 121-122, 2006

Short Communication

NOTES ON A RARE FROG, *PTERORANA KHARE* KIYASETUO AND KHARE 1986, FROM NORTH EAST INDIA, WITH REPORT ON ITS HITHERTO UNKNOWN FEMALE

Pterorana khare was originally described from Sanuoru and Rukhroma waterfalls in Nagaland based on two male specimens (Kiyasetuo and Khare, 1986). Chanda (1994) in his Anuran (Amphibia) fauna of North East India included the description of this species quoting Kiyasetuo and Khare. He however inadvertently mentioned the types as females. Sen and Mathew (2003) reported on its extension of range to Mizoram based on a male specimen collected from Dhaleswari river, Bairabi. Dey and Ramanujam (2003) reported another male specimen from Mizoram.

We have a female specimen collected by S.J.S. Hattar from Pongsung, Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh on 17.1.1996. This specimen measures snout-vent length 55 mm. Unlike male specimens, the present female specimen does not have much extended skin flap either laterally or on thigh, (Plate I, A, Plate II) meaning, the lateral skin is not stretchable like in male specimens (Plate I, B). Dorso-lateral glandular fold is not very prominent as in males. Vomerine teeth more or less cluster type, oblique, equidistant from choanae and each other (in males it is narrow, oblique, closer to choanae than each other). Tongue shorter than in male with a depression anteriorly. First finger broad at base without spinules (in males it is prominent).

Considering the presence of unique “winglike lateral flaps of skin” Kiyasetuo and Khare (1986) erected a new genus *Pterorana* for their new species *khare*, though their specimens shared many characters of *Rana*. However, Dubois (1992) treated *Pterorana* as subgenus of *Rana* without studying the types, Chanda, Das and Dubois (2000), who had not studied a female of the species, ranked *Pterorana* as a genus on the basis of the “highly distinctive patagium”

After studying the female specimen of *Pterorana khare* wherein “highly distinctive patagium” is not present, (Plate I, A), the authors are of the opinion that this species could be retained in the genus *Rana* under sub genus *Pterorana*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors are grateful to Dr. J.R.B. Alfred, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and to Shri. S.J.S. Hattar, Officer-in-Charge, Eastern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Shillong, for permission and laboratory facilities.

REFERENCES

- Chanda, S.K. 1994. Anura (Amphibia) of northeastern India. *Mem. Zool. Surv. India*, **18** : 1-143.
- Chanda, S.K., Das, I. and Dubois, A. 2000. Catalogue of amphibian types in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India. *Hamadryad*. Vol. **25**, no. 2, pp. 100-128.
- Dey, Mithra and Ramanujam, S.N. 2003. Record of *Pterorana khare* Kiyasetuo and Khare, 1986 (Anura : Ranidae) from Aizwal District, Mizoram, north-eastern India. *Hamadryad* Vol. **27**. No. 2 : 255-256.
- Dubois, A. 1992. Notes sur la classification des Ranidae (Amphibiens : Anoures). *Bull. Mens. Soc. Linn. Lyon*, **61**(10) : 305-352.
- Kiyasetuo and Khare, M.K. 1986. A new genus of frog (Anura : Ranidae) from Nagaland at the north-eastern Hills of India. *Asian J. Exp. Sci.*, **1** : 12-17.
- Sen, Nibedita and Mathew, Rosamma 2003. Range extension of *Pterorana khare* Kiyasetuo and Khare, 1986 (Anura : Ranidae) with notes on some morphological characters. *Cobra*, Vol. **53** : 5-8.

NIBEDITA SEN AND ROSAMMA MATHEW
*Eastern Regional Station,
Zoological Survey of India, Shillong*