



A note on odd mating behaviour of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Schneider, 1799) at human habitation, Telangana, India

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ABSTRACT

Duttaphrynus melanostictus (Order: Anura) commonly found in gardens, cultivated fields, human habitations and near ponds. It is active in the night and hides under stones during day time. This note is a first observation on unusual mating behaviour of *D. melanostictus* at a human habitat from India, reporting the based on field observations.

Key words: *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, unusual mating behaviour, first observation, India.

The Common Indian Toad *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* is one of the wide spread of the 225 species in the genus *Duttaphrynus* of Bufonidae family and distributed all over India (Daniels 2005).

On 27th August 2013, a routine visit was carried out to an amphibians survey with my research team at Pilloniguda Village (Latitude 17.206286° Longitude 78.298214°), Ranga Reddy, Telangana State, India. A Common Indian Toad *D. melanostictus* male vocalizing, chasing to female and other males also trying to chase the female, there is a no fighting over between males for a single female. The key observations were made by the naked eye, 2 m away from the toads for taking photographs to document the key observation. In between 21:18 hr to 21:57 hr, while noting observation no disturbances were made. A first attempt of the Male *D. melanostictus* jumped towards on the female and stayed about few seconds for holding with front finger limbs but there were no grip to hold, and then suddenly fall down. After few seconds aging male tried for copulating during this time female tried to escape from the male. Finally the male successfully

obsessed the female but female again tried for escaping, in between raped action they fall down about 45° angle and male stayed on the female about 39 minutes. Afterwards female freely cooperated with male action on the same angle and continued mating process, during this time female hind limbs freely disposed, behind of male totally grounded, due to unbalance, after that, the female escaped from the male, clear actions given in the (Fig. 1). This note concludes the anurans are unfortunately making the mistakes during mating. According to (Arak 1988; Davies and Halliday 1979; Lamb 1984) smaller males are typically rejected by females by larger males during violent fights over females. In general male anurans are while courtship and mating time energy is highly exhibits due to predation risk (McCauley et al. 2000).

Some of records available on unusual type of mislead communication between two amphibian species belonging to two different families of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* and *Polypedates cruciger* in Sri Lanka it could be a mistaken communication of both species (Edirisinghe and Amarasinghe 2009). Another case reported by Dorđevic and Simovic (2014), a strange affection of male *Bufo bufo* passionately embracing a bulge of mud. Hence, further observations are needed on mating patterns and behavioural ecology of *D. melanostictus* to understand the natural history.

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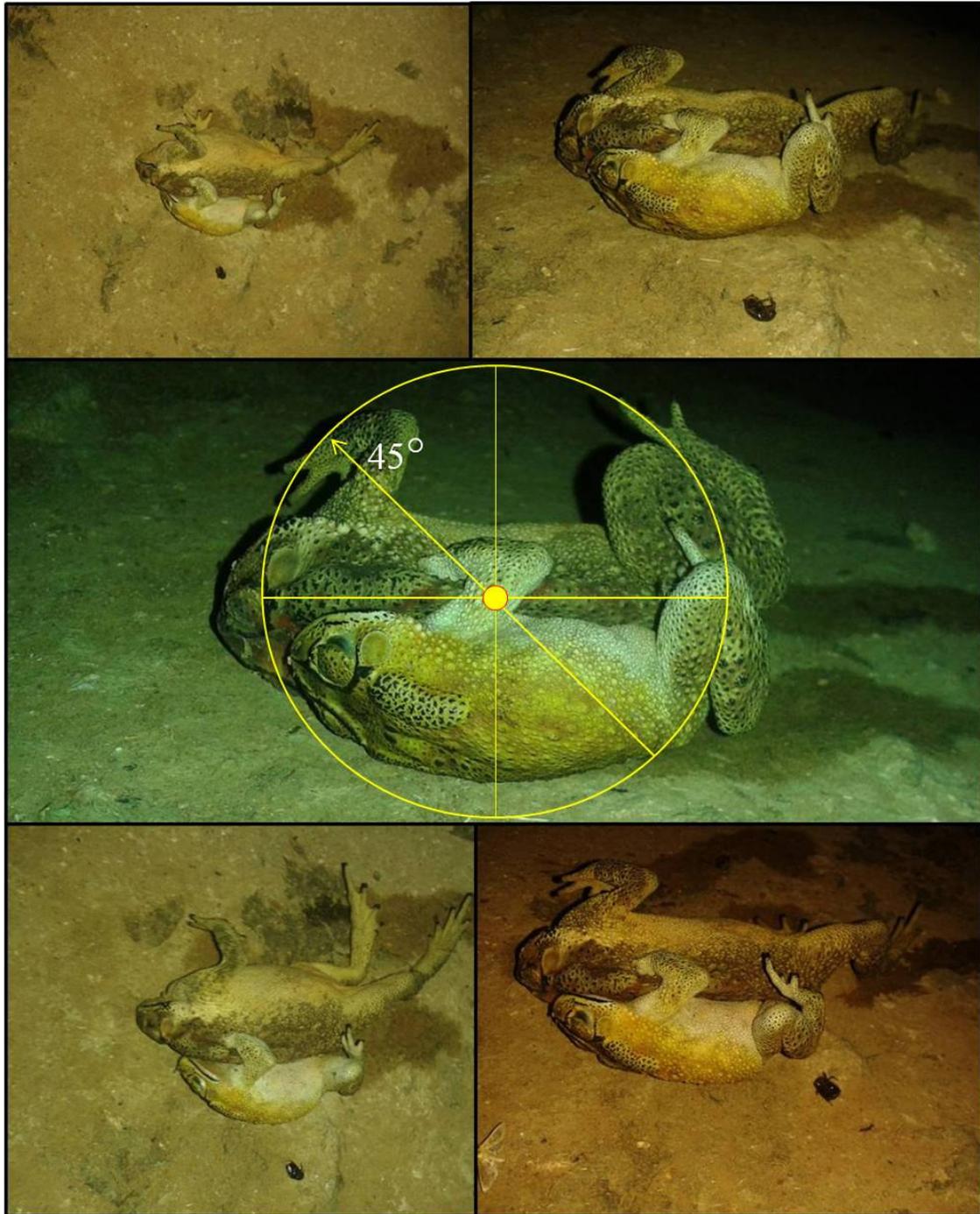


Fig. 1. Unusual mating actions of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*.

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