

Limb malformation in the skipper frog (*Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*) (Amphibia: Dicroglossidae), first evidence in Bangladesh

MOHAMMAD FIROJ JAMAN, MOHAMMAD ABDUR RAZZAQUE SARKER*, ABU SAYEED RANA, MOHAMMAD SAMIUL ALAM, SULTANN AHMED & SHAH MOHAMMAD SHAFI

Department of Zoology, Faculty of Biological Science, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
*Corresponding author Email: razzqaqsciencebd@gmail.com

On 29 August 2016, a deformed adult Skipper frog (*Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*) was found in Shere-e-Bangla Agricultural University Campus (23°46'14.68"N, 90°22'41.21"E; Elev 14m; WGS 84), in Dhaka City, Bangladesh. The adult frog was found while calling near a paddy field during a night survey with almost all of its left forelimb absent, but the right forelimb was normal (Fig. 1). The following measurements were taken: SVL: 41 mm, length of the right forelimb (normal limb): 24.60 mm, length of the small fraction of the deformed left forelimb: 3.14 mm, hind limbs were found in normal condition. Figure 2 shows a radiographic image indicating bone structure of the deformed frog. An interesting aspect of the condition is that the frog had managed to survive to the adult stage, which necessitates securing prey for growth and presumably avoiding predation. A recent report (Ramalho et al., 2017) indicated blind Amazonian tree frogs, apparently congenital conditions, had also survived to the adult stage, albeit rather underweight.

This is the first evidence of forelimb malformation in amphibians in Bangladesh ever reported. *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* is a widely distributed species in Bangladesh and highly adapted to aquatic habitats including agricultural fields, temporary pools, etc. (Chakma, 2009; Hasan et al., 2014; Khan 2015). The paddy field in Shere-e-Bangla Agricultural University campus is used by the students for their agriculture related research purpose, such as cultivation of different paddy plants or vegetables, etc. They employ different pesticides and agro-chemicals during cultivation and hence there is the possibility that these could be involved in the malformation described here. Further investigations are in progress into this phenomenon.

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Figure 1. Forelimb malformation in adult *E. Cyanophlyctis*: Details of the dorsal side of the deformed left forelimb

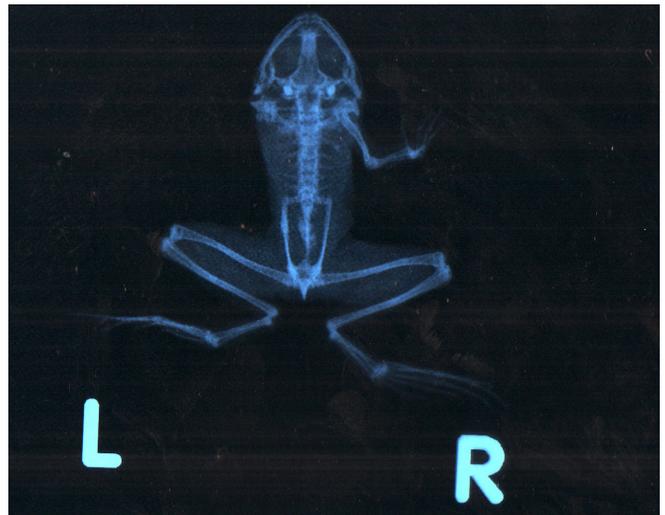


Figure 2. Radiograph of the adult *E. cyanophlyctis*

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