

PHILAUTUS BOMBAYENSIS (Bombay Oriental Shrub-frog).

REPRODUCTION. The Asian genus *Philautus* contains species of the subfamily Rhacophorinae (Ranidae) that are characterized by direct development, i.e., without an aquatic, free-swimming tadpole. Although 84 species are currently recognized in this genus (Bossuyt and Dubois 2000. *J. South Asian Nat. Hist.*, *in press*), the number of species for which this particular mode of reproduction has been observed is limited. For the Western Ghats of South India, it has been described for only two species, "*P. variabilis*" (Patil and Kanamadi 1997. *Current Sci.* 73[8]:697–701) and *P. tinniens* (Bossuyt and Dubois, *op. cit.*). We here report on a third species from the Western Ghats showing such direct development.

During the night of 29 July 1996, we observed axillary amplexus of *P. bombayensis* at an oviposition site in Sakleshpur (12°59'N, 75°43'E), Karnataka. Adult males, sitting on leaves of *Lantana camara* shrubs, were calling from heights between 0.5 and 2 m. The frogs were nocturnal, as no individual was observed during a full day search at this locality.

We observed three clutches, two containing 26 and one 27 eggs, attached to the upper side of leaves (Fig. 1) of *L. camara*, where they were kept humid by the moisture of the dense vegetation. The reproduction of *P. bombayensis* can be referred to mode 20 of the table of reproductive modes in anurans (Duellman and Trueb 1986. *Biology of Amphibians*: McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York. 670 pp.). This is unlike *P. tinniens* from the Western Ghats, which lays its eggs under stones or tree trunks (mode 17).

Freshly laid eggs of *P. bombayensis* are non-pigmented and uniformly cream colored. This coloration is retained until the forelimbs and hindlimbs are visible as distinct buds (stage 5; Patil and Kanamadi, *op. cit.*). In this stage, the embryos have the head and body arched over the yolk, and are very active in the jelly. They remain in the egg at least until stage 9 (Patil and Kanamadi, *op. cit.*) in which the hindlimbs, mouth, eyes, and nasal pits are well developed. In this stage, the tail is slightly longer than the body, and curved along the side of the yolk.

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