Manthey’s chorus frog at Venus Loop

Subjects: Manthey’s chorus frog, Microhyla mantheyi (Amphibia: Anura: Microhylidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributors.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Thompson, Venus Loop; 24 April 2015; around 2150 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of secondary forest, among leaf litter on the ground.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: An example of about 2 cm snout-vent length was observed calling on the surface of a fallen leaf next to a puddle of water on the forest floor (see accompanying picture). The call resembles a slow, monotonous rattle. Several other individuals were seen and heard in the surroundings. A video recording of the calling frog can be viewed (and the call heard) at http://youtu.be/aQoudrAJRA.

Remarks: The Manthey’s chorus frog, unlike its three congeners in Singapore (i.e., Microhyla heymonsi, M. butleri and the introduced M. fissipes), seems to be confined to forest habitats. It is locally known only from the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves, and is regarded as ‘rare’ (Baker & Lim, 2012: 66, 159). It has been regarded as ‘critically endangered’ in Singapore (Lim, 2008: 264), but this appears to be exaggerated.

References: