

## East Asian ornate chorus frogs at Lorong Halus

**Subjects:** East Asian ornate chorus frog, *Microhyla fissipes* (Amphibia: Anura: Microhylidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributors.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Lorong Halus Wetland, 7 February 2016; around 2108 hrs.

**Habitat:** Construction site with scrub vegetation and flooded grassy areas with small pools of water.

**Observers:** Contributors.

**Observation:** Initially detected from their calls, at least 20 individuals of around 2 cm snout-vent length were seen and heard (Fig. 1). One pair in amplexus was noted, indicating that the site is a breeding ground. Two colour morphs were noted, one pale (Figs. 2 & 3) and one dark with intricate patterns on the back (Figs. 4 & 5).

**Remarks:** *Microhyla fissipes* was first recorded from Singapore on Pulau Tekong (Ng & Yeo, 2012). It was first recorded on Singapore Island at the western end in the campus of the Nanyang Technological University (Law, 2015). The present observation is at a new locality in the north-eastern part of Singapore Island.

The contributors have seen both pale and dark-coloured morphs in northern Peninsular Malaysia at Ipoh in the state of Perak and Merapoh in the state of Pahang. They were found in flooded grasslands near and around human settlements, habitats similar to that of the present observation.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of calling male with inflated throat sac. Photograph by Serin Subaraj





Fig. 2. Dorsal view of pale morph example.



Fig. 3. Dorso-lateral view of pale morph example.



Fig. 4. Dorsal view of dark morph example.



Fig. 5. Side view of dark morph example.

Photographs by Serin Subaraj

**References:**

- Law I. S., 2015. First record of East Asian ornate chorus frog on Singapore Island. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 30.
- Ng T. H. & D. C. J. Yeo, 2012. Non-indigenous frogs in Singapore. *Nature in Singapore*. 5: 95-102.

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