

INTERSPECIFIC AMPLEXUS BETWEEN *UPERODON MORMORATA* (RAO, 1937)
(ANURA: MICROHYLIDAE) AND *MINERVARYA* SP. (ANURA: DICROGLOSSIDAE)¹

SAISH SOLANKAR², ANUJ SHINDE^{3,5} AND SHUBHANKAR DESHPANDE^{3,4,*}

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²Department of Anthropology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN – 47906, USA. Email: solankarsaish@gmail.com

³Department of Zoology, Fergusson College, Shivaji Nagar, Pune 411 004, Maharashtra, India.

⁴Institute of Natural History Education and Research (INHER), C26/9, Ketan Heights, Kothrud, Pune 411 038,

Maharashtra, India. Email: shubhankarsdeshpande11@gmail.com

⁵Email: anujherp@gmail.com

*Corresponding author

The majority of Anurans employ external fertilization, which is facilitated by amplexus wherein the male clasps the female. This is followed by the laying of gametes by the male and female for external fertilization. Anurans are known to rely on vocal, visual, and chemical cues for species and sex recognition (Wells 2007). However, such cues are found to be less efficient in large breeding congregations involving multiple explosive breeding species (Mollov *et al.* 2010). Some anuran species fail to recognize the release call of heterospecific individuals, which may lead to interspecific amplexus (Marco and Lizana 2002).

In India, Harpalani *et al.* (2015) reported interspecific amplexus between members of families Microhylidae: *Ramanella anamalaiensis* (now *Uperodon anamalaiensis*), Dicroglossidae: *Fejervarya* sp. (now *Minervarya*), and Ranixalidae: *Indirana brachyura*. Sayyed and Padhye (2020) reported interspecific amplexus between *Raorchestes ghatei* and *Uperodon marmorata*. Here we report multiple amplexing pairs of *Uperodon marmorata* and *Minervarya* sp.

On June 03, 2020, at 06:15 hrs, the first author (SS) observed three interspecific amplexing pairs inside a garden pond in Belgaum, Karnataka (15° 52' 36.0" N; 74° 29' 32.7" E). As soon as he approached, two of the pairs separated and hopped away. The third pair remained in amplexus for approximately 10 minutes (Fig. 1). There was no observed egg laying at the site. Both sexes of *Minervarya* sp. were seen, though the female individual involved in amplexus could not be identified beyond generic level. Only male individuals of *Uperodon marmorata* were seen.



Fig. 1: Interspecific amplexus between *Uperodon marmorata* and *Minervarya* sp.

The male microhylid was identified as *Uperodon marmorata* based on the following observed characters: Globular body, mouth significantly narrow, tympanum indistinct, fingertips with truncate discs. Dorsum dark olive-grey with scattered brown spots on the posterior part, a faint dark brown inverted 'V' at shoulder level; ventral side of body, including the throat and limbs, densely mottled. These taxonomic features confirm the identification according to Garg *et al.* (2018).

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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