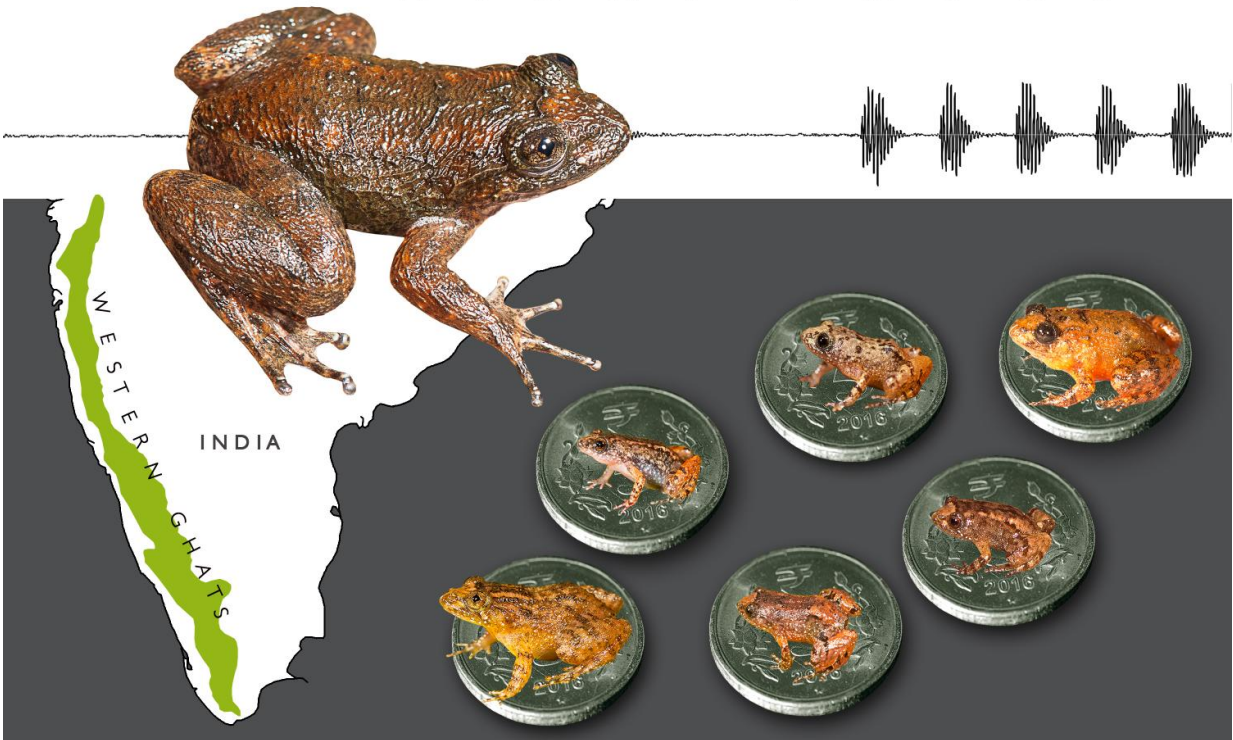



Seven new species of night frogs from India including four miniature forms

February 21 2017


SEVEN NEW NIGHT FROGS



12.2 mm
Nyctibatrachus pulivijayani




13.3 mm
Nyctibatrachus manalari




FOUR
out of seven are among the **smallest** known Indian frogs

12.3 mm
Nyctibatrachus sabarimalai



13.1 mm
Nyctibatrachus robinmoorei



INTEGRATED TAXONOMY

Molecules



Morphology

Bioacoustics



PeerJ

Seven new species of Night Frogs (Anura, Nyctibatrachidae) from the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot of India, with remarkably high diversity of diminutive forms
PeerJ 5:e3007; DOI 10.7717/peerj.3007
<https://peerj.com/articles/3007/>

Systematics Lab
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Abstract of the article. Credit: SD Biju

Scientists from India have discovered seven new frog species belonging to the genus *Nyctibatrachus*, commonly known as Night Frogs. This find is a result of five years of extensive explorations in the Western Ghats global biodiversity hotspot in India. Four out of seven of the new species are miniature-sized frogs (12.2-15.4 mm), which can comfortably sit on a coin or a thumbnail. These are among the smallest known frogs in the world.

Unlike other [frogs](#) in the genus that are predominantly stream dwelling, the new miniature frogs were found under damp forest leaf litter or marsh vegetation. Scientists were surprised by the relative abundance of these previously unknown [species](#) at their collection localities. "In fact, the miniature species are locally abundant and fairly common but they have probably been overlooked because of their extremely small size, secretive habitats and insect-like calls", says Sonali Garg who undertook this study as part of her PhD research at University of Delhi.

In the lab, the newly sampled frogs were confirmed as [new species](#) by using an integrated taxonomic approach that included DNA studies, detailed morphological comparisons and bioacoustics. Evidence from these multiple sources confirmed that the diversity of Night frogs is higher than previously known and particularly remarkably for the miniaturized forms. Previously, the Night Frog genus comprised of 28 recognized species of which only three were miniature-sized (

Citation: Seven new species of night frogs from India including four miniature forms (2017,

February 21) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-02-species-night-frogs-india-miniature.html>

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