

Newsletter of
The International Bornean Frog Race

Issue 2

7 October 2021



Chalcorana raniceps © Tan Song Wei@birdtan/IBFR 2021

Editor: Pang Sing Tyan

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Newsletter of the 9th International Bornean Frog Race Virtual 2021

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Introduction

Congratulations to all Racers, for completing Month 1 of the Race! A total of 573 observations were uploaded to ‘The International Bornean Frog Race 2021’ project, on iNaturalist (Figure 1). The submission rate was rather flat at the beginning, the increase towards the end of the month likely due to the hike in racing spirit, to share the winning images...

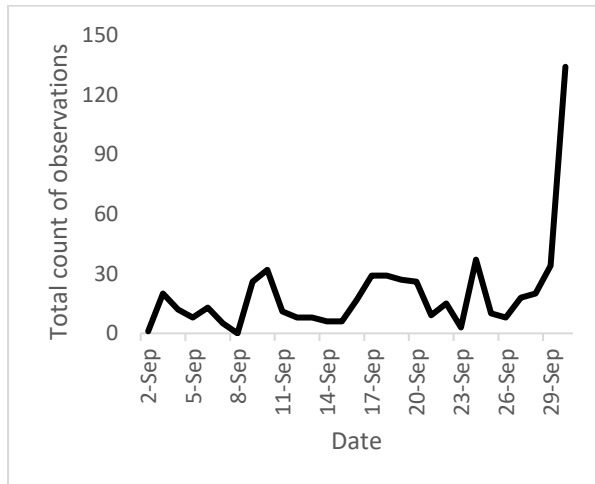


Figure 1: Daily submission of observations by participants on iNaturalist.

Best Photos of the Month

We proudly present the Five Winning Monthly Images. Congratulations to the photographers!



Honourable Mentions

The following images received honourable mention by our judges. **Notes from the judges:** these photos nearly made the cut and are also deemed exceptional for their portrayal of Bornean amphibians. Participants are reminded for the criteria such as sharpness, exposure, colour balance which have always been judges' considerations.

Some photos were necessarily disqualified by the judges due to evidence that the amphibian had been moved from its original position.



The League Table

The League Table below shows total species observed by each participant. Congratulations to those who made it to the Top 5 and are the winners of the category “The Most Number of Species” for the month of September 2021.

Table 1: The ranking for the category “The Most Number of Species”.

Rank	Name	User	Sp
1	Teo Kuo Leat	bruce_teo	43
2	Samantha Barnes	samantha-barnes	41
3	Mohd Hafiz bin Ali	hafiz_	36
4	Mohamad Affirul Faim bin Abdul Rahim	faim1306	36
5	Bob Zakaria	bobzakaria	35
6	Tan Song Wei	birdtan	29
7	Dominic Kelundek	dominickay	28
8	Wong Chun Xing	chunxingwong	23
9	Ak Mohd Shahrin Nizam bin Haisron	ak_shahnizam	22
10	Palumie Eliss Imbun	palumie	22
11	Pylon Dale Imbun	pylon	16
12	Masliadi Asri	adiyy92	15
13	Jonathan Anderson	tanerdy93	5
14	Sim Shia Ying	julianna-sim	3
15	Ng Jia Jie	ngjiajie	2
16	Tarien Kasi	tarien	2
17	Hashim Mahrin	bani_hasyim__	1

Obs: Observation

Sp: Species

A friendly note to all: Any participant who is awarded a Most Number of Species monthly prize is still eligible to win a prize in the following month(s). However, all species that were counted towards their first prize cannot be counted again for the subsequent month(s).

Of the around 190 species known from Borneo, a total 82 species were observed by participants of the Race in September.

Table 2: The list of 82 species observed during the Race for September 2021.

No.	Species name	# of obs.
1	<i>Ansonia hanitschi</i>	2
2	<i>Ansonia leptopus</i>	9
3	<i>Ansonia minuta</i>	1
4	<i>Ansonia spinulifer</i>	5
5	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>	9
6	<i>Ingerophrynus divergens</i>	16
7	<i>Ingerophrynus quadriporcatus</i>	3
8	<i>Pelophryne guentheri</i>	1
9	<i>Phrynoidis juxtasper</i>	5
10	<i>Pulchrana laterimaculata</i>	2
11	<i>Rentapia hosii</i>	1
12	<i>Fejervarya cancrivora</i>	5
13	<i>Fejervarya limnocharis</i>	16
14	<i>Hoplobatrachus rugulosus</i>	2
15	<i>Limnonectes conspicillatus</i>	18
16	<i>Limnonectes finchi</i>	4
17	<i>Limnonectes hikidai</i>	10
18	<i>Limnonectes kong</i>	8
19	<i>Limnonectes leporinus</i>	8
20	<i>Limnonectes malesianus</i>	22
21	<i>Limnonectes palavanensis</i>	5
22	<i>Limnonectes paramacrodon</i>	5
23	<i>Occidozyga laevis</i>	1
24	<i>Occidozyga sumatrana</i>	6
25	<i>Leptobrachella arayai</i>	4
26	<i>Leptobrachella fritinniensis</i>	3
27	<i>Leptobrachella gracilis</i>	9
28	<i>Leptobrachella mjobergi</i>	9
29	<i>Leptobrachella picta</i>	4
30	<i>Leptobrachella sabahmontana</i>	3
31	<i>Leptobrachium abbotti</i>	12
32	<i>Leptobrachium ingeri</i>	3
33	<i>Leptobrachium montanum</i>	1
34	<i>Pelobatrachus baluensis</i>	1
35	<i>Pelobatrachus nasutus</i>	12
36	<i>Chaperina fusca</i>	5
37	<i>Kalophrynus heterochirus</i>	6
38	<i>Kalophrynus intermedius</i>	3
39	<i>Kalophrynus meizon</i>	11

40	<i>Kalophrynus punctatus</i>	7
41	<i>Kaloula baleata</i>	2
42	<i>Kaloula pulchra</i>	7
43	<i>Metaphrynella sundana</i>	5
44	<i>Microhyla berdmorei</i>	1
45	<i>Microhyla malang</i>	6
46	<i>Microhyla nepenthicola</i>	13
47	<i>Odorrana hosii</i>	1
48	<i>Abavorana luctuosa</i>	5
49	<i>Chalcorana megalonesa</i>	1
50	<i>Chalcorana raniceps</i>	17
51	<i>Huia cavitympanum</i>	2
52	<i>Hylarana erythraea</i>	14
53	<i>Indosylvirana nicobariensis</i>	<u>1</u>
54	<i>Meristogenys dyscritus</i>	2
55	<i>Meristogenys jerboa</i>	11
56	<i>Meristogenys kinabaluensis</i>	3
57	<i>Meristogenys orphnocnemis</i>	4
58	<i>Pulchrana baramica</i>	12
59	<i>Pulchrana picturata</i>	6
60	<i>Pulchrana signata</i>	2
61	<i>Staurois guttatus</i>	14
62	<i>Staurois latopalmatus</i>	1
63	<i>Staurois tuberilinguis</i>	3
64	<i>Feihyla kajau</i>	5
65	<i>Kurixalus chaseni</i>	1
66	<i>Leptomantis angulirostris</i>	2
67	<i>Leptomantis fasciatus</i>	1
68	<i>Leptomantis harrissoni</i>	4
69	<i>Leptomantis rufipes</i>	1
70	<i>Nyctixalus pictus</i>	14
71	<i>Philautus aurantium</i>	3
72	<i>Philautus hosii</i>	1
73	<i>Philautus macroscelis</i>	1
74	<i>Philautus nephophilus</i>	3
75	<i>Philautus petersi</i>	1
76	<i>Philautus tectus</i>	5
77	<i>Polypedates colletti</i>	15
78	<i>Polypedates leucomystax</i>	15
79	<i>Polypedates macrotis</i>	10
80	<i>Polypedates otitophus</i>	9
81	<i>Rhacophorus pardalis</i>	13
82	<i>Zhangixalus dulitensis</i>	3

#: number

Obs: observations

Speakers of the Month

Dr Ruchira Somaweera



Ruchira is a scientist, a National Geographic explorer and an author. He is also the Science Director of Aaranya Wildlife Odysseys which is developing a specialised tourism programme focused on herpetofauna of Asia.

On top of a range of research projects is focused on how reptiles and amphibians adapt to a changing world, he also has a keen interest in popularizing science among the general public and developing a sustainable and specialised tourism program focused on herpetofauna.

Join his webinar on 13 October 2021, 1200 hours (12pm Malaysia Time) for his presentation entitled "The Slimy and The Scaly: The Amphibians and Reptiles in Wildlife Tourism".

Synopsis: Many wildlife populations around the world are declining. Priorities for funding for the conservation of these species is determined also by the general public's perceptions of what kinds of animals are worth saving. Commonly, people think that cute and cuddly animals warrant more conservation effort than ugly or venomous ones. This is a huge challenge when it comes to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles: a group of animals full of misconceptions and a with a monetary value not apparent to many people. Within this backdrop,

demonstrating an economic value through sustainable tourism could provide a strong justification for local communities to support and get involved in conserving threatened species of amphibians and reptiles. When well managed and regulated, these initiatives have benefited in the long-term conservation of species. Here I review examples from around the world, discuss logistics and legal boundaries, and summarise best practices.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramlah Zainudin



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramlah has made significant contributions to academia and the advancement of knowledge through over 33 scientific indexed publication in amphibian diversity, ecology, and evolutionary biology. Her research achievements include several awards in Research and Development Expo including bronze for the 'Homes of the Little Frog, microhabitat of the *Microhyla*' in 2017. With new norms during the COVID 19 pandemic, she wishes to contribute her knowledge and expertise to upskilling the tourism caretakers on the narration of structure and function of Bornean biodiversity.

Join her webinar on 20 October 2021, 2000 hours (8pm Malaysia Time) for her presentation entitled "The Little Homes of Bornean Frogs".

Synopsis: Frogs having a dual-life are sensitive to the environment that they live in. The optimum conditions of their

surroundings ensure their survival. Here I present a close up and personal view of the tiny homes to selected Bornean frogs in Sarawak Malaysian Borneo. How do they choose their homes, how do they interact with neighbours and how do they execute predator avoidance strategy will be highlighted in the talk.

Frog News Briefs

Glowing Amphibians Are More Common Than Thought

Dozens of amphibians are biofluorescent, according to a study published in *Scientific Reports*. On land, blue light is common after sunset, which may explain why amphibians react to it. Many land animals, such as penguins, parrots, and rodents are known to fluoresce under ultraviolet light (360-380 nm), but most species known to fluoresce under blue light (440-460 nm) are aquatic, including fish and turtles.

Jennifer Lam and Matthew Davis from St. Cloud State University exposed salamanders to blue light and found lit up. To understand how widespread the trait may be, they used a blue light on eight salamander families, five frog families and one family of caecilians, and found that many lit up with a brilliant green or more yellow. In some, such as the marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*), a faint glow came from the bones. The functions of biofluorescent remain unknown, and may be communication, sexual selection, camouflage, and improved vision in the dark.

New Frog Stamps

The Europa stamp competition's theme for 2021 is wildlife. Two further stamps have appeared that feature amphibians, from San Marino and Sweden.



San Marino

Date of issue: 30 March 2021

Geotritone, *Speleomantes italicus* /

Designer: Mauro Mazzara

Size: 40 x 30 mm / Face value: € 1.10 /

Cartor Security Printing

The stamp depicts the Geotritone (*Speleomantes italicus*), a small salamander that lives in the cracks of the rocks of Monte Titano and the First Tower.



Sweden

Date of issue: 14 January 2021

European Green Toad (*Bufotes viridis*) /

Designer: Hanning Trollbäck

Size: 36.6 x 26.5 mm / Face value: 24 kr

(SEK) / Walsall Security Printers Ltd.

The European Green Toad (*Bufotes viridis*) has over the past five years, moved on the conservation classification from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered due to eutrophication and drainage. The species is being bred for reintroduction, while its wetland breeding habitats are also being restored.