NEWSLETTER OF

THE INTERNATIONAL BORNEAN FROG RACE

ISSUE 3

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NEWSLETTER OF

THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL BORNEAN FROG RACE VIRTUAL 2021

Issue 3 7 November 2021

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations to all Racers, for completing Month 2 of the Race! A total of 468 observations were uploaded to 'The International Bornean Frog Race 2021' project, in October, on iNaturalist (Figure 1). The graph reveals that Race participants adopted the "Save the Best for Last" strategy, submitting their images on 31 Oct, making the graph rocket on the last day of the month!

Here's an important note from the organiser: the Race Period has been shortened to 80 days due to unavoidable circumstances. The deadline for submissions for the photographic competition @ the Race will be at 11.59PM, on 19 November 2021. The result will be announced on 26 November 2021.

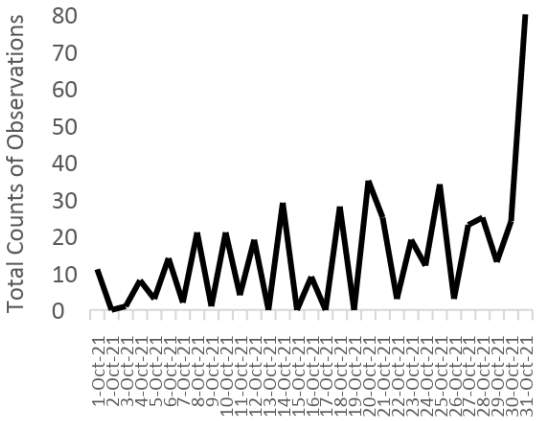

Figure 1: Daily submission of observations by participants on iNaturalist during Month 2.

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: The panel of judges were most impressed with the submissions, making judging a challenge. They would like to remind all Racers that images need to be take n of undisturbed frogs: subjects should not be relocation or stressed. If in doubt, Racers are requested to refer to the Rules and Regulations of the Race.

THE LEAGUE TABLE

The League Table below shows total species observed by each participant. Congratulations to those who made it to the Top 5 during Month 2 of the Race and the winners of the category "The Most Number of Species" for the month of October 2021. The ranking of the accumulated number of species observed by the participants since September 2021 is shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Top 5 winners of the category The Most Number of Species of the Race in October 2021.

RANK	NAME	USER	Sp.
1	Wong Chun Xing	chunxingwong	36
2	Dominic Kelundek	dominickay	29
3	Tan Song Wei	birdtan	29
4	Masliadi Asri	adiyy92	16
5	Mohamad Affirul Faim bin Abdul Rahim	faim1306	11

Table 2: The rankings for the category "The Most Number of Species".

RANK	NAME	USER	Obs	Sp.
1	Teo Kuo Leat	bruce_teo	196	48
2	Mohamad Affirul Faim bin Abdul Rahim	faim1306	90	47
3	Mohd Hafiz bin Ali	hafiz_	106	45
4	Bob Zakaria	bobzakaria	98	45
5	Samantha Barnes	samantha-barnes	87	45
6	Dominic Kelundek	dominickay	71	39
7	Tan Song Wei	birdtan	98	34
8	Wong Chun Xing	chunxingwong	69	30
9	Palumie Eliss Imbun	palumie	52	29
10	Pylon Dale Imbun	pylon	42	24
11	Ak Mohd Shahrin Nizam bin Haisron	ak_shahnizam	27	22
12	Masliadi Asri	adiyy92	43	19
13	Jason Teo	jasonteo	12	10
14	Trevor Allen Nyaseng	burekkemundang	9	7
15	Mohd Faizizan Borhan	zizann	6	6
16	Roger Teo	rogerteo	6	5
17	Jonathan Anderson	tanerdy93	6	5
18	Adi Shabrani	adishabrani	5	5
19	Yulinda Wahyuni Eddyutowo	yulindawahyunie	4	3
20	Sim Shia Ying	julianna-sim	3	3
21	Chan Swee Kim	srwkim	3	2
22	Ng Jia Jie	ngjiajie	2	2
23	Royston Stephen	royston25	2	2
24	Tarien Kasi	tarien	2	2
25	Mohammad Aliyuddin Jaini	ali_gullu	1	1
26	Hashim Mahrin	bani_hasyim__	1	1
27	Umar Fadhli Kennedi	fhadlikennedi	1	1
28	Veronica Leah Buma	vleahchambers	1	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). Seven species were newly observed in the month October, resulting in 89 observed species in this year's Race.

Table 3: The list of 82 species observed during the Race for September 2021.

NO	SPECIES NAME	RACE PERIOD	
		SEPT	OCT
1	*Ansonia hanitschi*	/	
2	*Ansonia leptopus*	/	/
3	*Ansonia minuta*	/	/
4	*Ansonia spinulifer*	/	/
5	*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*	/	/
6	*Ingerophrynus divergens*	/	/
7	*Ingerophrynus quadriporcatus*	/	
8	*Pelophryne guentheri*	/	
9	*Pelophryne signata*	/	/
10	*Phrynoidis juxtasper*	/	/
11	*Rentapia hosii*	/	/
12	*Fejervarya cancrivora*	/	/
13	*Fejervarya limnocharis*	/	/
14	*Hoplobatrachus rugulosus*	/	/
15	*Limnonectes cintalubang*		/
16	*Limnonectes conspicillatus*	/	/
17	*Limnonectes finchi*	/	/
18	*Limnonectes hikidai*	/	/
19	*Limnonectes ingeri*		/
20	*Limnonectes kong*	/	/
21	*Limnonectes kuhlii*		/
22	*Limnonectes leporinus*	/	/
23	*Limnonectes malesianus*	/	/
24	*Limnonectes palavanensis*	/	
25	*Limnonectes paramacrodon*	/	/
26	*Occidozyga baluensis*		/
27	*Occidozyga laevis*	/	
28	*Occidozyga sumatrana*	/	
29	*Leptobrachella arayai*	/	
30	*Leptobrachella fritinniens*	/	/
31	*Leptobrachella gracilis*	/	/
32	*Leptobrachella mjobergi*	/	/
33	*Leptobrachella picta*	/	
34	*Leptobrachella sabahmontana*	/	/
35	*Leptobrachium abbotti*	/	/
36	*Leptobrachium ingeri*	/	/
37	*Leptobrachium montanum*	/	/
38	*Pelobatrachus baluensis*	/	/
39	*Pelobatrachus edwardinae*		/
40	*Pelobatrachus nasutus*	/	/
41	*Chaperina fusca*	/	/
42	*Kalophrynus heterochirus*	/	/
43	*Kalophrynus intermedius*	/	
44	*Kalophrynus meizon*	/	/
45	*Kalophrynus punctatus*	/	/
46	*Kaloula baleata*	/	/
47	*Kaloula pulchra*	/	/
48	*Metaphrynella sundana*	/	/
49	*Microhyla berdmorei*	/	/
50	*Microhyla malang*	/	/
51	*Microhyla nepenthicola*	/	/
52	*Odorrana hosii*	/	/
53	*Abavorana luctuosa*	/	/
54	*Chalcorana megalonesa*	/	/
55	*Chalcorana raniceps*	/	/
56	*Huia cavitympanum*	/	
57	*Hylarana erythraea*	/	/
58	*Indosylvirana nicobariensis*	/	/
59	*Meristogenys dyscritus*	/	
60	*Meristogenys jerboa*	/	/
61	*Meristogenys kinabaluensis*	/	/
62	*Meristogenys orphnocnemis*	/	/
63	*Pulchrana baramica*	/	/
64	*Pulchrana laterimaculata*	/	/
65	*Pulchrana picturata*	/	/
66	*Pulchrana signata*		/
67	*Staurois guttatus*	/	/
68	*Staurois latopalmatus*	/	/
69	*Staurois tuberilinguis*	/	
70	*Feihyla kajau*	/	
71	*Kurixalus chaseni*	/	/
72	*Leptomantis angulirostris*	/	
73	*Leptomantis fasciatus*	/	
74	*Leptomantis harrissoni*	/	
75	*Leptomantis rufipes*	/	/
76	*Nyctixalus pictus*	/	/
77	*Philautus aurantium*	/	
78	*Philautus davidlabangi*		/
79	*Philautus hosii*	/	
80	*Philautus macroscelis*	/	
81	*Philautus nephophilus*	/	
82	*Philautus petersi*	/	
83	*Philautus tectus*	/	/
84	*Polypedates colletti*	/	/
85	*Polypedates leucomystax*	/	/
86	*Polypedates macrotis*	/	/
87	*Polypedates otilophus*	/	/
88	*Rhacophorus pardalis*	/	/
89	*Zhangixalus dulitensis*	/	/
	TOTAL	82	67

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Dr Chan Kin Onn is a lecturer and curator of herpetology at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore. He is also an evolutionary biologist who enjoys exploring remote jungles and discovering new species. He has described more than 50 species of amphibians and reptiles throughout Southeast Asia.

Sharing his experiences at IBFR 2021 November Webinar on 17 November 2021 8pm (Malaysia local time), Dr Chan's talk topic is Where to Find New Species and How to Describe Them?

DR. CHAN KIN ONN

Synopsis: Contrary to popular belief, there are still many new species of frogs awaiting to be discovered, many of which are hiding in plain sight. In this webinar, Dr. Chan will share some of his new species discoveries as well as the tools of the trade used to reveal them.
Mossy Stream Toad *(Ansonia lumut)* and Yellow-spotted Tree Toad *(Rentapia flavomaculata)* are two new species described by Dr Chan Kin Onn and his team in 2014 and 2020, respectively. Malaya Bug-eyed Frog *(Theloderma leporosum)* on the other hand, was described by Tschudi, in the year 1838.

Caption: *Ansonia lumut*
Photo: Chan Kin Onn

Caption: *Rentapia flavomaculata*
Photo: Chan Kin Onn

Caption: *Theloderma leporosum*
Photo: Chan Kin Onn

FROG NEWS BRIEFS

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF FROGS

OUT OF THE TRAP: A NEW PHYTOTHELM-BREEDING SPECIES OF *PHILAUTUS*, AND AN UPDATED PHYLOGENY OF BORNEAN BUSH FROGS (ANURA: RHACOPHORIDAE)

L. Etter, A. Haas, C.C. Lee, Y.M. Pui, I. Das & S.T. Hertwig
Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research vol 59,
1064–1096. doi:10.111/jzs.12465 (2021)

Adult of *Philautus nepenthophilus*.
Photo: Chien C. Lee.

Bush frogs of the genus *Philautus* are a species-rich group of the Asian tree frogs Rhacophoridae, which are known for their diverse reproductive biology. Within the genus, reproduction has been described via endotrophic tadpoles and by direct terrestrial development. Etter and her colleagues provide results of phylogenetic analyses based on a comprehensive sampling of the Bornean lineage. As a result of an integrative taxonomic study using mitochondrial and nuclear markers, along with morphological and bioacoustics data, a spectacular new species of this genus from the island of Borneo is described. The ecology of the new species, *Philautus nepenthophilus* is closely associated with the carnivorous pitcher plant, *Nepenthes mollis*. The unusually large eggs are laid in the fluid of the pitcher and the endotrophic tadpoles, characterized by reduced mouthparts, small oral orifice and large intestinal yolk mass, complete their development in this environment. Molecular data and synapomorphic larval characters support the sister group relationship of the new species to *P. macroscelis*: both belong to the early diverged lineages, whose phylogenetic relationships could not be fully resolved. The new record of endotrophic tadpoles challenge again the hypothesis that terrestrial direct development is the plesiomorphic mode in this genus. Further, we discuss the nature of the frog-plant interaction that could represent a new case of mutualism. The frog provides the plant with a source of nitrogen by depositing yolk-rich eggs in the liquid of the pitcher. The plant, on the other hand, offers an exclusively protected space for the development of tadpoles in a habitat that otherwise has few permanent bodies of water and many competing frog species.

NEW FROG STAMP

Jean de La Fontaine (1621–1695), the celebrated French poet and fabulist, is best known for his collection of fables. Among the most famous is 'The Frog and the Ox' (which also appears in Aesop's Fables). The tale is of a frog (or a toad) that tries to inflate itself to the size of an ox, but bursts in the attempt, the moral of the story being pride comes before the fall!

On 12 July 2021, the 400th anniversary of the birth of Jean de la Fontaine, La Poste (the French postal administration) issued a souvenir sheet (measuring 143 x 105 mm), designed and engraved by Christophe Labrode-Balen, with perforation 13, honouring La Fontaine. Each of the two stamps in the sheetlet indicate a €2.15 face value. The amphibian-related tale is depicted on the stamp on the left. A total of 310,000 sheetlets were released.

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