



Opportunistic feeding behavior of Nilgiri frog (*Zakerana nilagirica*)

A Dicroglossid frog, *Zakerana nilagirica* (Jerdon, 1854), has been observed opportunistically feeding on a Rhacophorid frog *Raorchestes ravii* Zachariah *et al.*, 2011. Both species are endemic to the southern Western Ghats. *Z. nilagirica* is known from only two populations: Wayanad in Kerala and the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu at 800–1600 m elevations (Biju *et al.*, 2004) while, *R. ravii* is known from a single locality, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu at 1890 m elevation (Frost, 2014). *Z. nilagirica* is listed as Endangered (IUCN, 2013).

On 21 April 2014 during a field trip to Emerald area, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu while we were observing a *Z. nilagirica* (SVL ~30 mm) and a *R. ravii* (SVL ~15 mm) sitting at close proximity (~15 cm), the *Z. nilagirica* abruptly seized the *R. ravii* and swallowed the entire individual within a few minutes (Fig 1). A previous report of these types of predation attempts indicated that they were generally unsuccessful (Silva *et al.*, 2013). Nevertheless, small vertebrates may occasionally be consumed by frog species of larger body size (Duellman & Trueb, 1986) and cannibalism may also occur (Crump, 1992).



Figure 1: Predation of *Z. nilagirica* on *R. ravii*

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J. L. Princy^{1,2}, P. Kannan¹, P. Santhosh Kumar¹, S. Nisha¹, B. Ramakrishnan¹, A. Veeramani¹, A. Samson¹ & S. Karthick¹

¹Department of Zoology & Wildlife Biology, Government Art's College, Udhagamandalam, India
²E-mail: leonaprincymc@gmail.com