



RAORCHESTES GHATEI, A NEW SPECIES OF SHRUB FROG (ANURA: RHACOPHORIDAE) FROM THE WESTERN GHATS OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

Anand D. Padhye¹, Amit Sayyed², Anushree Jadhav³ & Neelesh Dahanukar⁴

^{1,3}Department of Zoology, MES's Abasaheb Garware College, Pune, Maharashtra 411004, India

²Wildlife Protection and Research Society, 40 Rajaspura Peth, Satara, Maharashtra 415001, India

⁴Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune, Maharashtra 411008, India

⁴Zoo Outreach Organization, 96 Kumudham Nagar, Villankurittchi Road, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641035, India

¹anand.padhye@mesagc.org (correspondence author), ²amitsayyedsatara@gmail.com, ³anushreejadhav@gmail.com,

⁴n.dahanukar@iiserpune.ac.in

Abstract: A new species of shrub frog *Raorchestes ghatei* is described from the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. The species differs from its congeners based on a combination of characters including small to medium-sized adult males, snout mucronate in dorsal view, canthus rostralis angular and sharp, snout slightly projecting beyond mouth ventrally, tympanum indistinct and one third of the eye diameter, tongue without papilla but with a lingual pit, nuptial pad rudimentary to absent, a bony tubercle on humerus at the end of deltoid ridge present in males and absent in females, skin finely granulated or smooth dorsally, lateral side marbled with white blotches on brown to black background. Molecular phylogeny based on 16S rRNA gene sequence suggests that the new species is genetically distinct and forms a monophyletic clade within *Raorchestes*. The species exhibits sexual dimorphism with males having single sub-gular vocal sac and a tubercle on the humerus while females lack them. The species shows direct development. The species is widely distributed in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra.

Keywords: Biodiversity hotspot, bony tubercle, molecular phylogeny, new species, *Raorchestes*.

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Author contributions: ADP, AS, AJ and ND performed field studies. ADP and AJ performed morphometry. ADP, AJ and ND studied the type and comparative material. ND performed statistical and molecular analysis. ADP and ND wrote the paper.

Author Details: ANAND D. PADHYE is an Associate Professor in Zoology, Abasaheb Garware College, Pune. He works on systematics, ecology, diversity, distribution and evolution of amphibians. AMIT SAYYED is a naturalist working in Satara. He is interested in wildlife conservation, awareness, photography and research. ANUSHREE JADHAV has completed her Master of Science in Biodiversity and is interested in studying batrachology. NEELESH DAHANUKAR works in ecology and evolution with an emphasis on mathematical and statistical analysis. He is also interested in taxonomy, distribution patterns and molecular phylogeny.

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INTRODUCTION

The Western Ghats of India harbors a rich diversity of amphibians with high levels of endemism (Dinesh & Radhakrishnan 2011). With recent descriptions of several new species and genera of amphibians from the Western Ghats (Biju et al. 2011; Zachariah et al. 2011; Seshadri et al. 2012; Abraham et al. 2013), it is clear that the amphibian diversity within this region is subject to Linnean shortfall, where several species are not yet formally described (Bini et al. 2006), and detailed surveys and studies are essential to overcome it.

In the Western Ghats, tree frogs of the family Rhacophoridae are grouped under seven genera, namely *Beddomixalus* Abraham et al., 2013, *Ghatixalus* Biju, Roelants & Bossuyt, 2008, *Mercurana* Abraham et al., 2013, *Polypedates* Tschudi, 1838, *Pseudophilautus* Laurent, 1943, *Raorchestes* Biju et al., 2010 and *Rhacophorus* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822. The genus *Raorchestes* was recently erected to accommodate a monophyletic clade of shrub frogs characterized by adult snout-vent length between 15 and 45 mm, vomerine teeth absent, large gular pouch transparent while calling, nocturnal habit and direct development without free-swimming tadpoles (Biju et al. 2010). Currently, 49 species are recognized under *Raorchestes* by Frost (2013) and the genus is distributed in Western Ghats, southern China, Laos and Vietnam (Biju et al. 2010).

Annandale (1919) described *Ixalus bombayensis* (= *Raorchestes bombayensis*) from Castle Rock and mentioned that the species is also present in Khas (= Kaas) in Satara and Khandalla (= Khandala) in Poona (= Pune). In this communication, based on morphological and molecular analysis, we describe a new species of shrub frog and show that the populations of the *Raorchestes* from Satara District and Pune District, earlier reported as *R. bombayensis* are those of the new species. We further show that the character of tubercle on the humeral bone, which was previously thought as a specific character of *R. tuberothumerus* (Kuramoto & Joshy, 2003), is a sexually dimorphic character possessed by males but not by females.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

STUDY AREA

The Western Ghats of Maharashtra state extend from south of Amboli to north of Surgana covering around 600km of mountain ranges, parallel to the Arabian Sea coast, extending east as well as west, at some places

even up to the seashore. A formation of a series of 200–300 m high cliffs, which extends almost throughout the length of this part of the Western Ghats, forms a hurdle in the way of southwestern monsoon clouds. This results in a very high rainfall (average 6,000mm), with some places like Tamhini, Mahabaleshwar and Bhimashankar receiving rainfall up to 10,000mm. The major habitat in this part of Western Ghats is scrub and grasslands, both at the foothills and on the mountaintops. The hilly regions show some primary evergreen forest patches and comparatively more secondary evergreen and moist deciduous forests. The Western Ghats of Maharashtra is rich in biodiversity especially in that of amphibians (Padhye & Ghate 2002).

Specimens of the new species of *Raorchestes* were collected from the northern Western Ghats at Chalkewadi (17.59°N & 73.84°E, 1082m), plateau near Patan (17.45°N & 73.83°E, 1072m), Jaichiwadi (17.42°N & 73.85°E, 1005m), Thoseghar (17.60°N & 73.85°E, 1000m), Kaas (17.70°N & 73.82°E, 1183m) in Satara District and Dongarwadi (18.48°N & 73.42°E, 611m), Mulshi (18.52°N & 73.52°E, 658m) and Taleghar near Bhimashankar (19.08°N & 73.64°E, 1025m) in Pune District, Maharashtra, India. A total of 22 specimens were collected (nine males and 13 females). Six specimens (four males and two females) of *Raorchestes bombayensis* (Annandale, 1919) were collected from the type locality at Castle Rock (15.395°N & 74.337°E, 577m). Collected specimens are deposited in the museum collection of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai; Zoological Survey of India-Western Regional Center (ZSI-WRC), Pune; Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD) Society, Coimbatore and Abasaheb Garware College-Zoology Research Laboratory (AGCZRL), Pune.

MORPHOMETRY

Measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1mm using a digital caliper and using a binocular microscope. The following measurements, as defined by Biju & Bossuyt (2009), were taken: snout-vent length (SVL); head length (HL); head width (HW); rear of the mandible to the nostril (MN); rear of the mandible to the anterior orbital border of the eye (MFE); rear of the mandible to the posterior orbital border of the eye (MBE); snout length (SL); eye length (EL); inter upper eyelid width (IUE); maximum upper eyelid width (UEW); internal front of eyes (IFE); internal back of eyes (IBE); forelimb length (FLL); hand length (HAL); third finger length (TFL); disc width on finger III (FDIII); width of finger III (FWIII); shank length (ShL); thigh length (TL); foot length

(FOL); distance from the heel to the tip of the fourth toe (TFOL). Tympanum diameter was measured both vertically (TYDV) and horizontally (TYDH).

OSTEOLOGY

Two specimens WILD-13-AMP-104 (female) and WILD-13-AMP-105 (male) were used for osteological study following clearing and staining procedure described by Potthoff (1984).

GENETIC ANALYSIS

Muscle tissue was harvested from nine fresh specimens of the new species (ZSI-WRC A/1484; WILD-13-AMP-080, 100, 104, 105; AGCZRL-Amphibia-125, 127, 128, 130) collected from different localities and three specimens of *R. bombayensis* (WILD-13-AMP-230, 231; AGCZRL-Amphibia-172) collected from the type locality of the species and was preserved in absolute ethanol. The tissue was digested at 55°C for two hours using the STE buffer (0.1M NaCl, 0.05 M Tris-HCl, 0.01M EDTA, 1%SDS) with 15µl proteinase K (20mg/ml) per 500ml of STE buffer. DNA was extracted using conventional phenol-chloroform method and re-suspended in nuclease free water. Polymerase chain reaction was performed to amplify partial 16S rRNA gene using primer pair 16SF (5'-CGC CTG TTT ATC AAA AAC AT-3') and 16SR (5'-CCG GTC TGA ACT CAG ATC ACG T-3') (Palumbi et al. 2002). PCR reaction was performed in a 25µl reaction volume containing 5µl of template DNA (~200ng), 5µl of 5X reaction buffer (100 mM Tris pH 9.0, 500 mM KCl, 15 mM MgCl₂, 0.1% Gelatin), 3µl of 25mM MgCl₂, 1µl of 10mM dNTPs, 1µl of each primer, 0.5µl Taq polymerase (Promega) and 8.5µl nuclease free water. The thermal profile was 10min at 95°C, and 35 cycles of 1min at 94°C, 1min at 50°C and 2min at 72°C, followed by extension of 10min at 72°C. Amplified DNA fragments were purified using the 'Promega Wizard Gel and PCR clean up' system and sequenced. The purified PCR products were sequenced using ABI prism 3730 sequencer (Applied Biosystems, USA) and Big dye terminator sequencing kit (ABI Prism, USA). Sequences were analyzed by BLAST tool (Altschul et al. 1990). These sequences have been deposited in GenBank (accession numbers are provided in Appendix A).

We retrieved additional sequences on other related species from NCBI GenBank database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) details of which are provided in Appendix A. Gene sequences were aligned using MUSCLE (Edgar 2004). Best fit model for nucleotide substitution was selected from 24 models available in MEGA 5 (Takamura et al. 2011) based on minimum Akaike Information

Criterion (AIC) value (Posada & Crandall 2001). Maximum Parsimony analysis was performed in MEGA 5. General time reversal nucleotide substitution model with gamma distribution (GTR+G), obtained as a best fit model in the model test (AIC = 4653.9, lnL = -2204.2), was used for constructing phylogenetic tree based on maximum likelihood method in MEGA 5 and Bayesian analysis using MrBayes (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist 2001) integrated in TOPALI v2.5 (Milne et al. 2004). Reliability of the phylogenetic tree using maximum likelihood method was estimated using bootstrap values run for 1000 iterations. For Bayesian analysis two runs were performed for 1,000,000 generations with sample frequency of 10 and burn percentage of 25.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical analysis of the morphometric data was performed on size adjusted measurements by taking all measurements as percent of SVL. For analysis, we used the morphometry of related species *Raorchestes bombayensis* and *R. tuberohumerus* given by Biju & Bossuyt (2009) and data collected in the present study. Multivariate normality of the data was checked using Doornik & Hansen (2008) omnibus. Multivariate Analysis of Variance/Canonical Variates Analysis (MANOVA/CVA) was performed to understand whether related species of *Raorchestes* form significantly different clusters (Huberty & Olejnik 2006). We performed Pillay's trace statistic to find the significant difference between the clusters (Harris 2001). Statistical analysis was performed in PAST (Hammer et al. 2001).

RESULTS

Raorchestes ghatei sp. nov. (Images 1, 2a, 2d, 2g, 5a, 6)

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:44621AF1-15D8-44AB-8246-676470B541F8

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype: BNHS 5579, 23.viii.2012, male, SVL 22.0mm, Chalkewadi (17.59°N & 73.84°E, 1082m), Satara, Maharashtra, India, coll. A.D. Padhye, N. Dahanukar and A. Sayyed.

Allotype¹: BNHS 5582, female, SVL 25.5mm, Kaas (17.70°N & 73.82°E, 1183m), Satara, Maharashtra, India, coll. A. Sayyed, 1.viii.2012.

¹According to ICZN (Rec. 72A), allotype is a designated specimen (among paratypes) belonging to the opposite sex of the holotype and the term has no name bearing function and is not regulated by the code. In the absence of a female from the same locality as that of the holotype, we have designated an allotype from one of the paratypes collected from a nearby area (15km linear aerial distance).

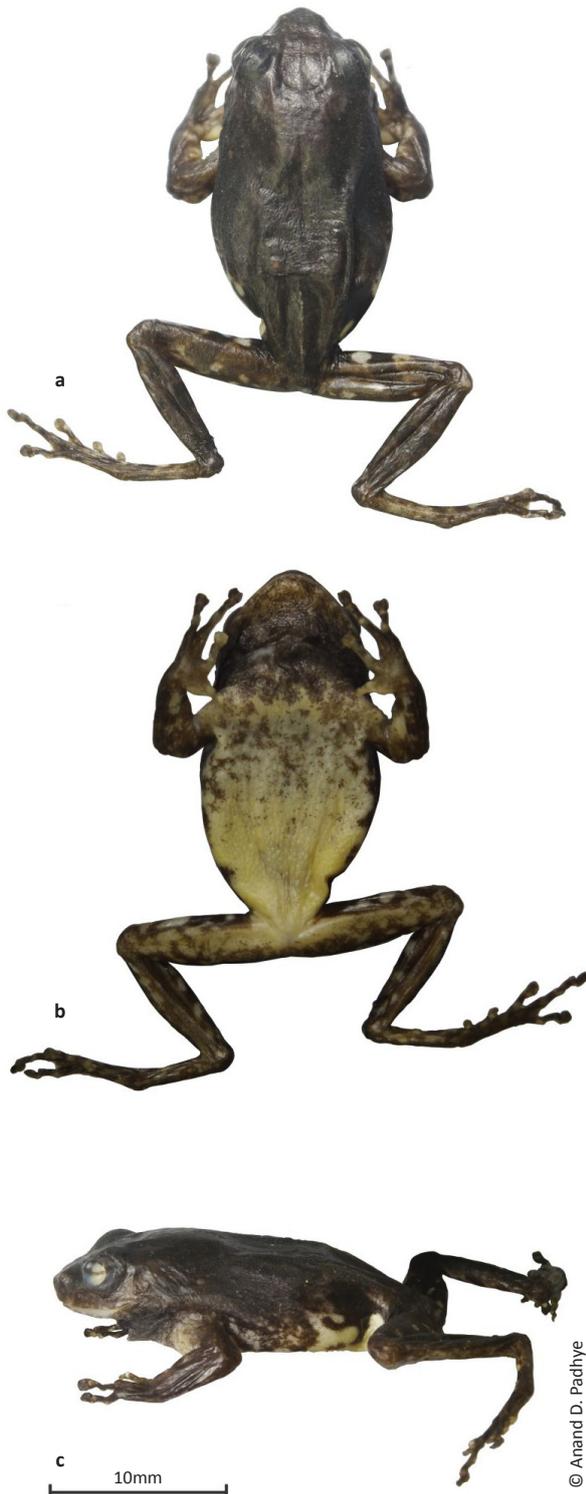


Image 1. *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. (holotype BNHS 5579)
a - dorsal view; b - ventral view; c - lateral view.

Paratypes (8 males and 12 females): BNHS 5580, 23.viii.2012, 1 male, SVL 24.3mm, Chalkewadi (17.59°N & 73.84°E, 1082m), Satara, Maharashtra, India, coll.

A.D. Padhye, N. Dahanukar and A. Sayyed; BNHS 5581, 23.viii.2012, 1 male, SVL 25.5mm, Jaichiwadi (17.42°N & 73.85°E, 1005m), Patan, Maharashtra, India, coll. A.D. Padhye, N. Dahanukar and A. Sayyed; ZSI-WRC A/1485, 09.viii.2012, 1 male, SVL 21.9mm, Dongarwadi (18.48°N & 73.42°E, 611m), Mulshi, Pune, Maharashtra, India, coll. A.D. Padhye; ZSI-WRC A/1484, 19.ix.2011, female, SVL 20.7mm, Mulshi (18.52°N & 73.52°E, 658m), Pune, Maharashtra, India, A.D. Padhye; WILD-13-AMP-078 to 080, 02.iii.2013, 3 females, SVL 15.4–21.6 mm, Taleghar near Bhimashankar (19.08°N & 73.64°E, 1025m), Junnar, Maharashtra, India, coll. N. Modak; WILD-13-AMP-100, 16.ix.2011, 1 male, SVL 19.9mm, plateau near Patan (17.45°N & 73.83°E, 1072m), Maharashtra, India, coll. A.D. Padhye, N. Dahanukar and M. Paingankar; WILD-13-AMP-101 and 102, 2 females, 07.vii.2010, SVL 23.4–29.8mm, plateau near Patan (17.45°N & 73.83°E, 1072m), Maharashtra, India, coll. N. Dahanukar and M. Paingankar; WILD-13-AMP-103, 13.vi.2013, 1 male, SVL 19.1mm, Taleghar near Bhimashankar (19.08°N & 73.64°E, 1025m), Junnar, Maharashtra, India, coll. A. Jadhav; WILD-13-AMP-104, 01.viii.2012, 1 female, SVL 22.7mm, Kaas (17.70°N & 73.82°E, 1183m), Satara, Maharashtra, India, coll. A. Sayyed; WILD-13-AMP-105, 1.viii.2012, 1 male, SVL 19.5mm, Kaas (17.70°N & 73.82°E, 1183m), Satara, Maharashtra, India, coll. A. Sayyed; AGCZRL Amphibia 123, 14.viii.2011, 1 female, SVL 28.9mm, Kaas (17.70°N & 73.82°E, 1183m), Satara, Maharashtra, India, coll. A. Sayyed; AGCZRL Amphibia 125, 127 and 128, 17.ix.2011, 3 females, SVL 16.7–18.7 mm, Thoseghar (17.60°N & 73.85°E, 1000m), Satara, Maharashtra, India, coll. A.D. Padhye, N. Dahanukar and M. Paingankar; AGCZRL Amphibia 130, 16.ix.2011, 1 female, SVL 16.7mm, plateau near Patan (17.45°N, 73.83°E, 1072m), Maharashtra, India, coll. A.D. Padhye, N. Dahanukar and M. Paingankar; AGCZRL Amphibia 167 and 168, 2 males, SVL 21.9 and 21.6 mm respectively, 13.vi.2013, Taleghar near Bhimashankar (19.08°N & 73.64°E, 1025m), Junnar, Maharashtra, India, coll. A. Jadhav.

DIAGNOSIS

Raorchestes ghatei sp. nov. can be distinguished from all related taxa by following combination of characters: (1) small to medium sized adult males (19.1–25.5 mm SVL); (2) snout mucronate in dorsal view; (3) canthus rostralis angular and sharp; (4) snout slightly projecting beyond mouth ventrally; (5) tympanum small, indistinct in live specimens but may appear distinct in specimens stored in absolute ethanol, tympanum diameter is almost one-third of the eye diameter; (6) tongue without



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Image 2. Ventral (a–c), dorsal (d–f) and lateral (g–i) view of head of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. holotype BNHS 5579 (a, d, g), *R. bombayensis* typtotype material 4589 (b, e, h) and *R. tuberochumerus* paratype BNHS 4194 (c, f, i).

papilla but with a lingual pit, (7) nuptial pad absent; (8) a bony tubercle on humerus at the end of deltoid ridge present in adult males but absent in females; (9) skin finely granulated or smooth above; (10) lateral side marbled with white blotches on brown background.

DESCRIPTION

Morphometric data are listed in Table 1. General body shape as in Image 1. Dorsal, ventral and lateral view of head as in Image 2. Maximum size 25.5mm SVL in male and 29.8mm SVL in female.

Holotype (BNHS 5579, male) (all measurements in mm):

Medium sized frog (SVL 22.0), with robust body; head length (HL 7.8) shorter than head width (HW 8.6; MN 7.3; MFE 5.3; MBE 2.5); outline of snout in dorsal view mucronate (Image 2d); snout length (SL 3.1)

shorter than horizontal diameter of eye (EL 3.2); canthus rostralis angular, loreal region obtuse, concave; ratio of distance between anterior margins of the eyes (IFE 5.1) to distance between posterior margins of eyes (IBE 6.0) 1:1.16; tympanum (TYD 1.1) indistinct, rounded, almost one-third of the eye diameter; supratympanic fold distinct, from posterior corner of upper eyelid to shoulder; tongue bifid, without papilla but with a lingual pit (Image 3); infratympanic fold distinct, from posterior margin of lower jaw joining to the supratympanic fold; interorbital distance (IUE 3.7) 2.4 times greater than width of upper eyelid (UEW 1.5).

Fore limbs: hand length (HAL 6.2) > humeral length (5.8) > forelimb (FLL 5.2); fingers with lateral (inner as well as outer) dermal fringes (Image 4a), webbing absent; subarticular tubercles prominent, rounded, single; single palmer tubercles present; supernumerary

Table 1. Morphometry of holotype, allotype and paratypes of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. (measurements in mm).

Accession number	SVL	HL	HW	MN	TYDV	TYDH	MFE	MBE	SL	EL	IUE	UEW	IFE	IBE	FLL	HAL	TFL	FDIII	FWIII	TL	SHL	TFOL	FOL
Males																							
BNHS 5579 (Holotype)	22.0	7.8	8.6	7.3	1.1	1.1	5.3	2.5	3.1	3.2	3.7	1.5	5.1	6.0	5.2	6.2	3.5	1.0	0.6	10.6	10.0	14.4	8.2
WILD-13-AMP-103	19.1	6.9	7.7	6.3	0.7	0.8	4.4	2.7	2.9	2.7	3.0	1.6	3.9	4.6	4.8	5.5	2.8	1.2	0.8	9.9	9.2	13.3	7.9
AGCZRL Amphibia 167	21.9	7.8	8.5	6.0	0.6	0.6	3.0	1.5	2.3	3.0	3.2	1.3	4.3	5.0	5.3	5.6	3.8	1.4	0.8	8.6	9.5	13.7	8.2
AGCZRL Amphibia 168	21.6	8.5	8.1	6.7	0.7	0.7	4.2	2.4	2.8	2.6	3.3	2.1	4.0	5.6	5.5	6.5	3.4	1.3	0.7	9.7	9.6	14.6	8.6
BNHS 5580	24.3	8.0	8.5	7.4	1.1	1.1	5.5	2.5	3.3	3.1	3.4	1.2	5.7	6.1	5.5	6.2	3.3	1.1	0.6	10.2	10.0	14.6	8.6
WILD-13-AMP-105 * +	19.5	6.5	6.6	6.2	-	-	4.0	2.4	1.4	2.1	3.4	1.3	4.0	4.4	4.5	5.5	2.9	-	-	10.2	9.0	13.4	8.1
ZSI-WRC 1485	21.9	8.7	7.9	6.5	1.1	1.0	4.8	1.6	3.0	3.2	2.8	2.2	3.7	5.0	5.9	6.2	2.0	0.9	0.6	10.7	10.1	13.0	8.1
BNHS 5581	25.5	8.4	9.3	7.3	1.3	1.3	5.2	2.0	3.4	3.3	3.5	1.7	5.5	6.0	5.4	6.2	3.5	1.1	0.6	10.1	10.2	15.7	9.1
WILD-13-AMP-100 *	19.9	7.0	8.7	6.5	1.3	1.2	4.5	2.5	3.0	2.8	2.4	1.1	4.4	5.7	5.1	6.0	1.9	1.1	0.6	9.8	9.8	13.0	8.2
Avg (sd)	21.7 (2.1)	7.7 (0.8)	8.2 (0.8)	6.7 (0.5)	1.0 (0.3)	1.0 (0.2)	4.5 (0.8)	2.2 (0.4)	2.8 (0.6)	2.9 (0.4)	3.2 (0.4)	1.6 (0.4)	4.5 (0.8)	5.4 (0.7)	5.2 (0.4)	6.0 (0.4)	3.0 (0.7)	1.1 (0.1)	0.7 (0.1)	10.0 (0.6)	9.7 (0.4)	13.9 (0.9)	8.3 (0.4)
Range	19.1- 25.5	6.5- 8.7	6.6- 9.3	6.0- 7.4	0.6- 1.3	0.6- 1.3	3.0- 5.5	1.5- 2.7	1.4- 3.4	2.1- 3.3	2.4- 3.7	1.1- 2.2	3.7- 5.7	4.4- 6.1	4.5- 5.9	5.5- 6.5	1.9- 3.8	0.9- 1.4	0.6- 0.8	8.6- 10.7	9.0- 10.2	13.0- 15.7	7.9- 9.1
Females																							
BNHS 5582 (Allotype)	25.5	8.9	9.7	8.0	1.3	1.3	6.2	3.8	3.2	3.0	3.4	2.6	4.3	6.0	5.5	6.9	3.6	1.1	0.7	11.9	11.4	15.9	9.8
AGCZRL Amphibia 130 *	16.7	6.9	6.8	5.8	0.9	0.8	4.8	2.6	2.8	2.5	3.0	1.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.7	4.4	0.9	0.6	7.9	9.4	11.4	6.8
WILD-13-AMP-101	23.4	9.5	10.4	8.2	1.4	1.4	6.7	3.2	2.2	3.6	3.9	2.1	6.4	6.5	6.0	6.8	4.2	1.7	0.8	12.3	12.7	18.2	10.9
WILD-13-AMP-102	29.8	9.9	10.5	8.1	1.3	1.3	6.4	2.2	2.4	3.8	4.8	2.2	6.9	7.7	6.3	7.2	7.3	1.7	1.0	13.1	12.8	18.2	10.7
AGCZRL Amphibia 123	28.9	10.3	10.0	9.0	1.0	0.9	6.5	2.1	5.0	3.6	3.7	2.0	5.5	8.4	6.2	6.1	2.5	1.0	0.5	13.0	12.7	15.4	9.2
WILD-13-AMP-104 * +	22.7	8.6	8.6	7.2	-	-	5.5	3.0	2.8	2.3	3.2	1.5	4.9	5.9	4.8	5.3	2.6	1.1	0.8	11.2	9.9	15.1	8.9
ZSI-WRC 1484 *	20.7	7.6	7.1	7.3	1.0	1.0	4.8	2.5	3.0	2.4	3.2	1.4	4.0	4.8	4.5	4.6	1.7	1.0	0.7	10.6	11.3	13.6	7.3
AGCZRL Amphibia 125 *	17.0	6.3	6.6	6.0	1.0	1.0	4.4	1.8	2.9	2.6	3.1	1.9	3.3	4.4	4.2	4.8	2.5	1.0	0.6	8.2	10.1	11.4	7.0
AGCZRL Amphibia 127 *	16.7	6.5	6.6	5.3	0.8	0.8	4.6	2.2	2.4	2.4	3.6	1.3	4.0	5.6	3.9	4.5	4.6	1.1	0.6	9.2	9.7	11.4	7.6
AGCZRL Amphibia 128 *	18.7	7.6	7.9	6.6	1.0	1.0	5.9	1.9	2.8	2.6	3.8	1.5	4.5	4.8	5.2	5.8	2.3	1.1	0.7	10.1	10.5	13.0	8.0
WILD-13-AMP-080 *	21.2	8.6	8.8	7.3	1.1	1.1	4.7	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.2	2.1	4.0	5.0	5.4	6.0	2.7	0.7	0.6	9.9	10.6	14.0	8.9
WILD-13-AMP-079	21.6	7.8	8.1	7.3	0.8	0.8	5.4	2.6	2.4	2.8	3.2	2.1	4.9	5.4	4.5	6.1	3.5	1.1	0.6	9.8	10.4	14.9	9.3
WILD-13-AMP-078	15.4	6.4	6.2	5.5	0.8	0.8	4.2	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.7	1.3	3.3	4.5	4.0	4.1	2.3	0.8	0.6	8.0	8.4	11.2	6.5
Avg (sd)	21.4 (4.6)	8.1 (1.4)	8.3 (1.5)	7.0 (1.1)	1.0 (0.2)	1.0 (0.2)	5.4 (0.9)	2.5 (0.6)	2.9 (0.7)	2.8 (0.5)	3.4 (0.5)	1.8 (0.4)	4.6 (1.1)	5.7 (1.2)	4.9 (0.9)	5.6 (1)	3.3 (1.5)	1.1 (0.3)	0.7 (0.1)	10.4 (1.8)	10.8 (1.4)	14.1 (2.4)	8.5 (1.5)
Range	15.4- 29.8	6.3- 10.3	6.2- 10.5	5.3- 9.0	0.8- 1.4	0.8- 1.4	4.2- 6.7	1.8- 3.8	2.2- 5.0	2.2- 3.8	2.7- 4.8	1.3- 2.6	3.3- 6.9	4.4- 8.4	3.7- 6.3	4.1- 7.2	1.7- 7.3	0.7- 1.7	0.5- 1.0	7.9- 13.1	8.4- 12.8	11.2- 18.2	6.5- 10.9

* = used for molecular studies, + = used for osteology

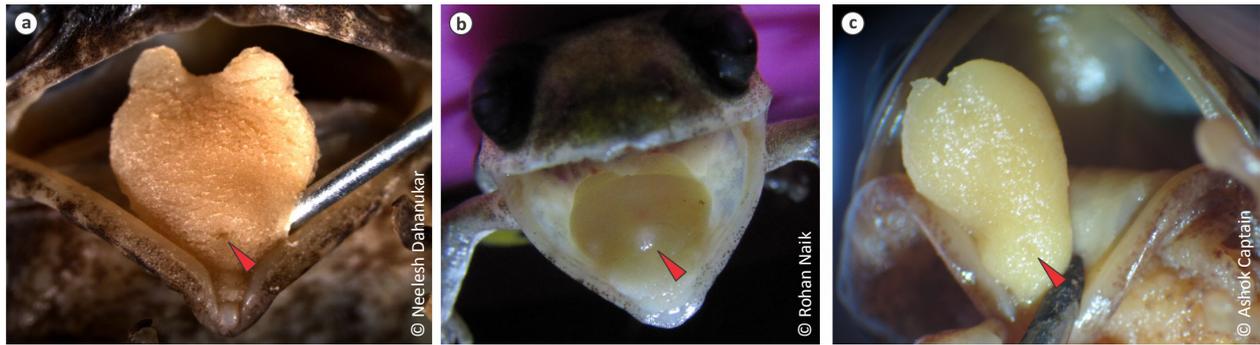


Image 3. Structure of tongue in *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. (a), *R. bombayensis* (b) and *R. tuberothumerus* (c). In *R. ghatei* sp. nov. and *R. tuberothumerus* tongue devoid of papilla but with a lingual pit (pointed with red arrow), while in *R. bombayensis* a well-defined papilla is present.

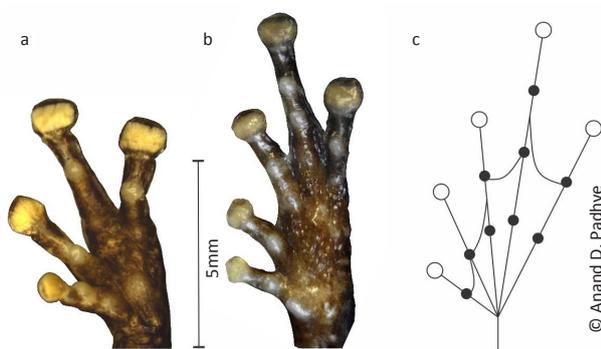


Image 4. Palm (a) and foot (b) of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. Diagrammatic representation of the webbing formula is depicted in (c).

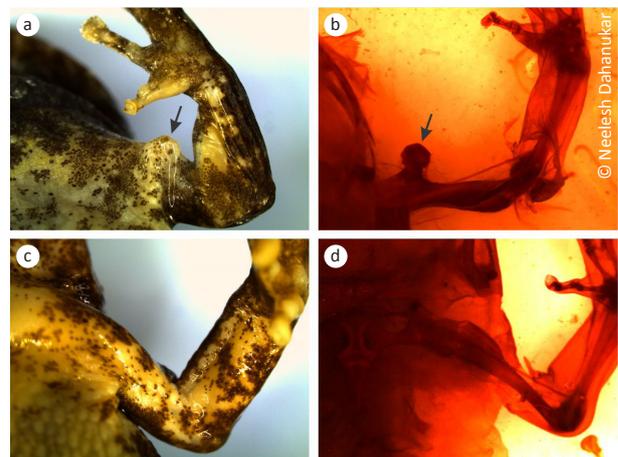


Image 5. Sexual dimorphic character in *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. Tubercle is present on the humerus in male (a-b) but not in females (c-d). (a) holotype BNHS 5579, (b) WILD-13-AMP-102, (c) WILD-13-AMP-105 and (d) WILD-13-AMP-104.

tubercles indistinct, nuptial pad absent; finger length 3 (TFL 3.5) > finger length 2 (2.1) > finger length 4 (1.8) > finger length 1 (1.0); bony tubercle on humerus at the end of deltoid ridge as its extension in male (Image 5).

Hind limbs: moderately long, shank (ShL 10.0) shorter than thigh (TL 10.6), longer than the distance from the base of the inner metatarsal tubercle to the tip of the fourth toe that is foot (FOL 8.2); distance from the heel to tip of the fourth toe (TFOL 14.4) > thigh length (TL 10.6) > shank length (ShL 10.0) > distance from the base of the inner metatarsal tubercle to the tip of the fourth toe (FOL 8.2); webbing reduced (Image 4b); reaching up to penultimate subarticular tubercle on either side of IV toe; webbing formula (I2-2II2-2½III2-3IV2½-2V) (Image 4c); dermal fringe absent; subarticular tubercles single, round; tarsal fold and tarsal fringe absent; toe length 4 (5.1) > toe length 3 (3.1) = toe length 5 (3.1) > toe length 2 (1.9) > toe length 1 (1.3); toe discs prominent with circum marginal groove; inner metatarsal tubercle simple, oval; outer metatarsal tubercle absent (Image 4b); heels barely touch when legs are folded at right angles to body.

Snout with granular dorsal skin, inter-orbital space

with smooth skin; skin on the back with minute sparsely located horny spinules; less in number as well as less conspicuous (Image 2d) as compared to *R. bombayensis* (Image 2e). Some variants show tubercles on the back.

Outer margins of dorso-lateral bands with inconspicuous dorso-lateral glandular folds, more evident in live specimens. Skin coarsely granular laterally. Gular skin rather smooth. Ventral skin in trunk region coarsely granular from chest to groin. Granulation extends up to thigh.

Colouration in life (Image 6): Dorsum greyish-brown with dark brown marbling. Black dorso-lateral band extending from tympanum converging in and then diverging to groin is present. Fore limbs dark without crossbars while thigh and shank with single cross bar. Creamish-yellow spots on dark background near the groin. Ventral skin in the trunk region is creamish in colour. A few dark spots present near fore limbs.

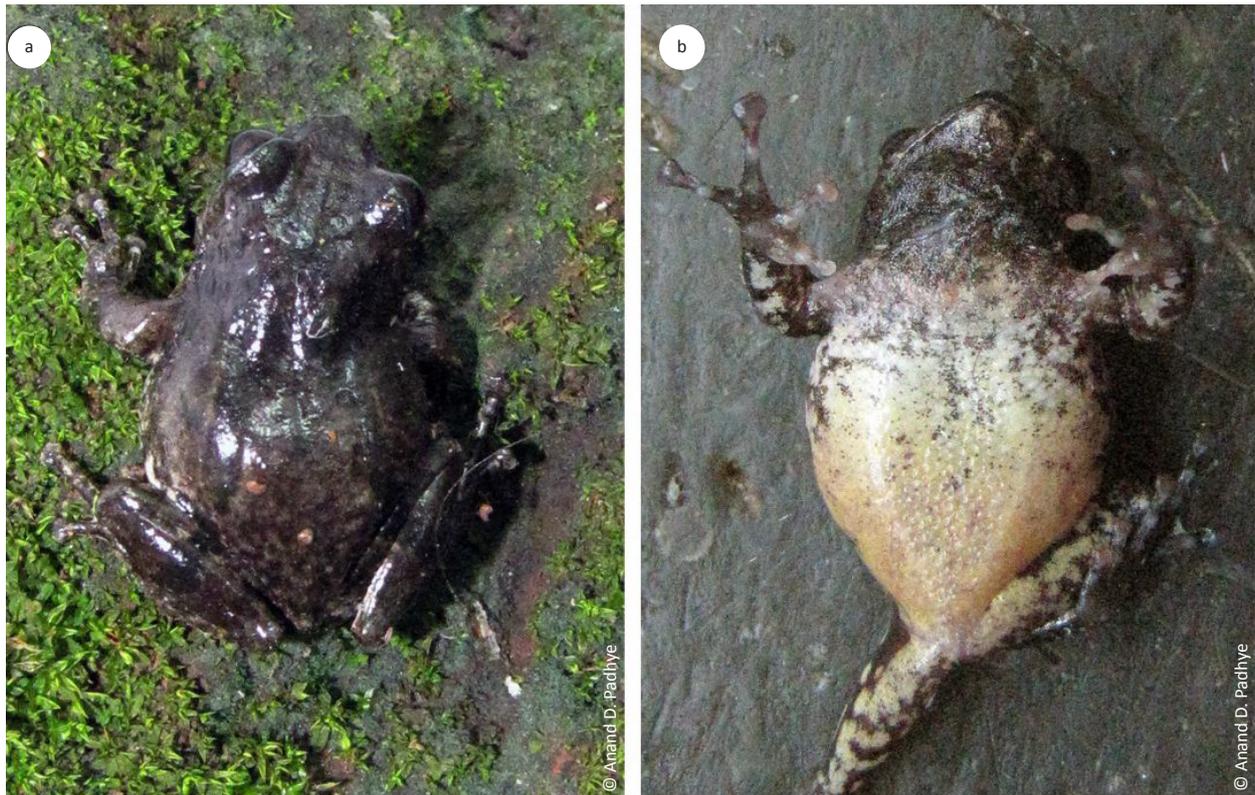


Image 6. Dorsal (a) and ventral (b) view of holotype of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. in life.

Yellowish-orange colour towards the posterior end of trunk. Gular skin marbled with dark spots, sometimes with reddish tinge.

In preservation (Image 1): Colour pattern in alcohol preserved specimens as in live conditions albeit faded

Allotype (BNHS 5582, female) (all measurements in mm):

Medium sized frog (SVL 25.5), with robust body; head length (HL 8.9) shorter than head width (HW 9.7; MN 8.0; MFE 6.2; MBE 3.8); outline of snout in dorsal view mucronate; snout length (SL 3.2) slightly longer than horizontal diameter of eye (EL 3.0); canthus rostralis angular, loreal region obtuse, concave; ratio of distance between anterior margins of the eyes (IFE .4.3) to distance between posterior margins of eyes (IBE 6.0) 1:1.40; tympanum (TYD 1.3) indistinct, rounded, almost one-third of the eye diameter; supratympanic fold distinct, from posterior corner of upper eyelid to shoulder; tongue bifid, without papilla but with a lingual pit; infratympanic fold distinct, from posterior margin of lower jaw joining to the supratympanic fold; interorbital distance (IUE 3.4) 1.3 times greater than width of upper eyelid (UEW 2.6).

Fore limbs: hand length (HAL 6.9) > humeral length (6.6) > forelimb (FLL 5.5); fingers with lateral (inner as well as outer) dermal fringes, webbing absent; subarticular tubercles prominent, rounded, single; single palmer tubercles present; supernumerary tubercles indistinct; finger length 3 (TFL 3.6) > finger length 2 (2.5) > finger length 4 (2.2) > finger length 1 (1.9); bony tubercle on humerus at the end of deltoid ridge absent.

Hind limbs: moderately long, shank (ShL 11.4) shorter than thigh (TL 11.9), longer than the distance from the base of the inner metatarsal tubercle to the tip of the fourth toe that is foot (FOL 9.8); distance from the heel to tip of the fourth toe (TFOL 15.9) > thigh length (TL 11.9) > shank length (ShL 11.4) > distance from the base of the inner metatarsal tubercle to the tip of the fourth toe (FOL 9.8); webbing reduced; reaching up to penultimate subarticular tubercle on either side of IV toe; webbing formula (I2-2II2-2½III2-3IV2½-2V); dermal fringe absent; subarticular tubercles single, round; tarsal fold and tarsal fringe absent; toe length 4 (5.0) > toe length 3 (3.7) = toe length 5 (3.7) > toe length 2 (2.3) > toe length 1 (1.8); toe discs prominent with circum-marginal groove; inner metatarsal tubercle simple, oval; outer metatarsal tubercle absent (Image 4b); heels

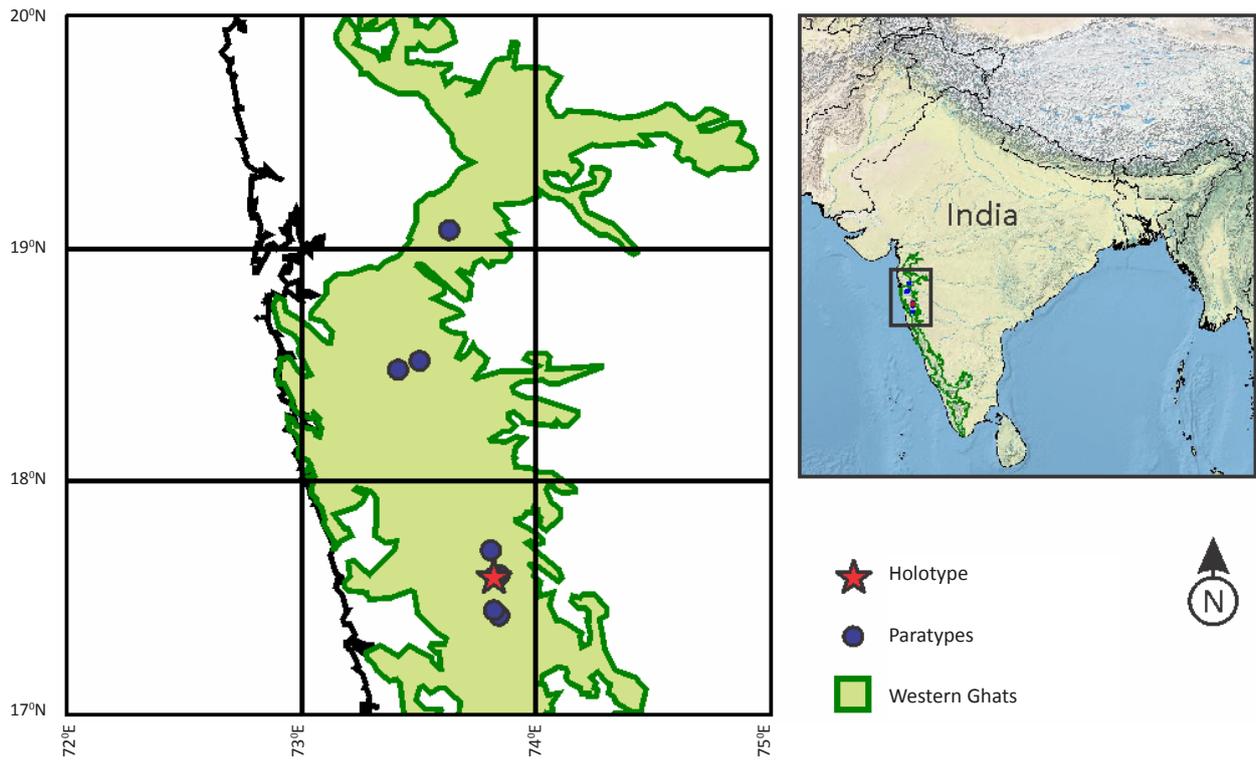


Figure 1. Distribution map of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov.

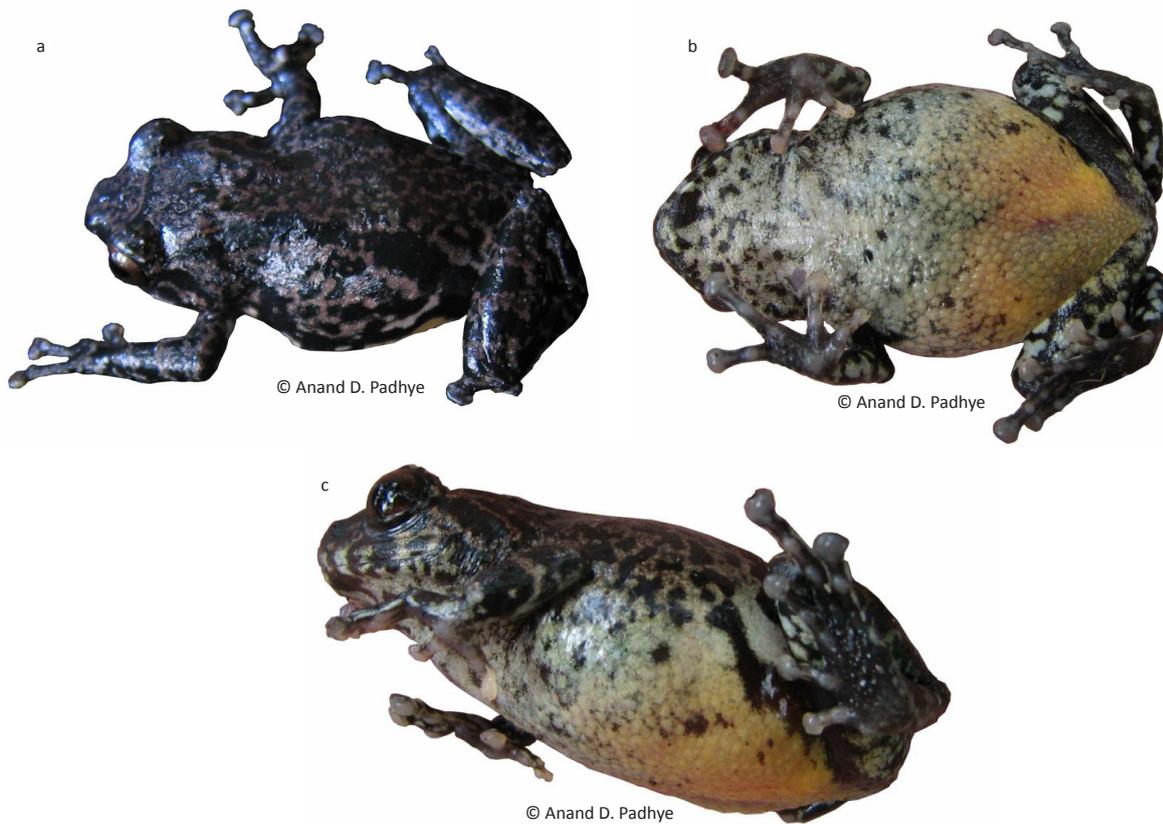


Image 7. Dorsal (a), ventral (b) and lateral (c) view of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. female (allotype BNHS 5582).

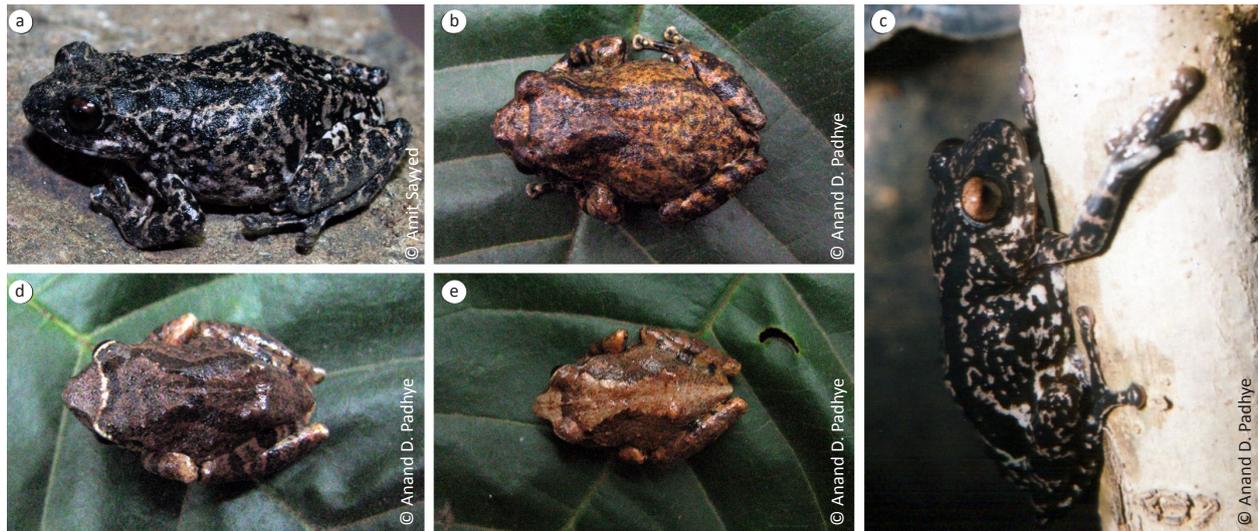


Image 8. Colour variation in live specimens of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. (a) specimen from Kaas, not collected, (b) WILD-13-AMP-100 (Paratype) from Thoseghar, (c) specimen from Thoseghar, not collected, (d) AGCZRL Amphibia 128 (Paratype) from Thoseghar and (e) female from Kaynanagar photographed in July 2002 (specimen not collected).

barely touch when legs are folded at right angles to body.

Colouration in life (Image 7): Dorsum blackish with creamish-white marbling. Black dorso-lateral bands extending from tympanum converging in and then diverging to groin are present. Fore limbs and hind limbs dark with crossbars. Creamish-yellow spots on dark background near the groin. Ventral skin in the trunk region is creamish in colour. A few dark spots present near fore limbs. Yellowish-orange colour towards the posterior end of trunk. Gular skin creamish in colour marbled with dark spots.

In preservation: Colour pattern in alcohol preserved specimen more or less similar as in live condition except for the creamish marbling on the back, which is lost in preservation.

Colour variation

Variation in colour pattern is shown in Image 8. Colour variation on the flanks and thigh region is shown in Image 9. A faint white stripe between anterior margins of upper eye lids (absent in holotype) may or may not be present.

Sexual dimorphism

Males of the species have a bony tubercle on the humerus at the end of deltoid ridge as its extension, which is absent in females (Image 5); males also possess single, sub-gular vocal sac, however, nuptial pads are absent.

ETYMOLOGY

The species is named after Dr. H.V. Ghate for his contributions to the herpetology of Western Ghats of Maharashtra.

Common name: Ghate’s Shrub Frog.

NATURAL HISTORY

Distribution: The species is widely distributed in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra (Fig. 1) and is currently known from Jaichiwadi (17.42°N & 73.85°E, 1005m) in the south and Taleghar near Bhimashankar (19.08°N & 73.64°E, 1025m) in the north.

Habitat: Usually inhabit semi-evergreen forests and scrub patches (Image 10). Females usually found underneath loose stones while males are found calling on the branches of shrubs or even on trunks of trees, up to 5m above ground.

Biology: The species has a direct development mode without free-swimming tadpoles. The eggs are laid in soil under loose stones on the forest floor (Image 11a). Development occurs within the egg (inside the vitelline membrane) (Image 11b) and fully metamorphosed juvenile emerges from the egg (Image 11c).

GENETIC ANALYSIS

Maximum likelihood analysis of 16S rRNA gene for all species of *Raorchestes* available on NCBI suggested that *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. is genetically different from known species of *Raorchestes* and forms a monophyletic clade nested within the generic clade of *Raorchestes* with high bootstrap value (Fig. 2, Appendix B and C).

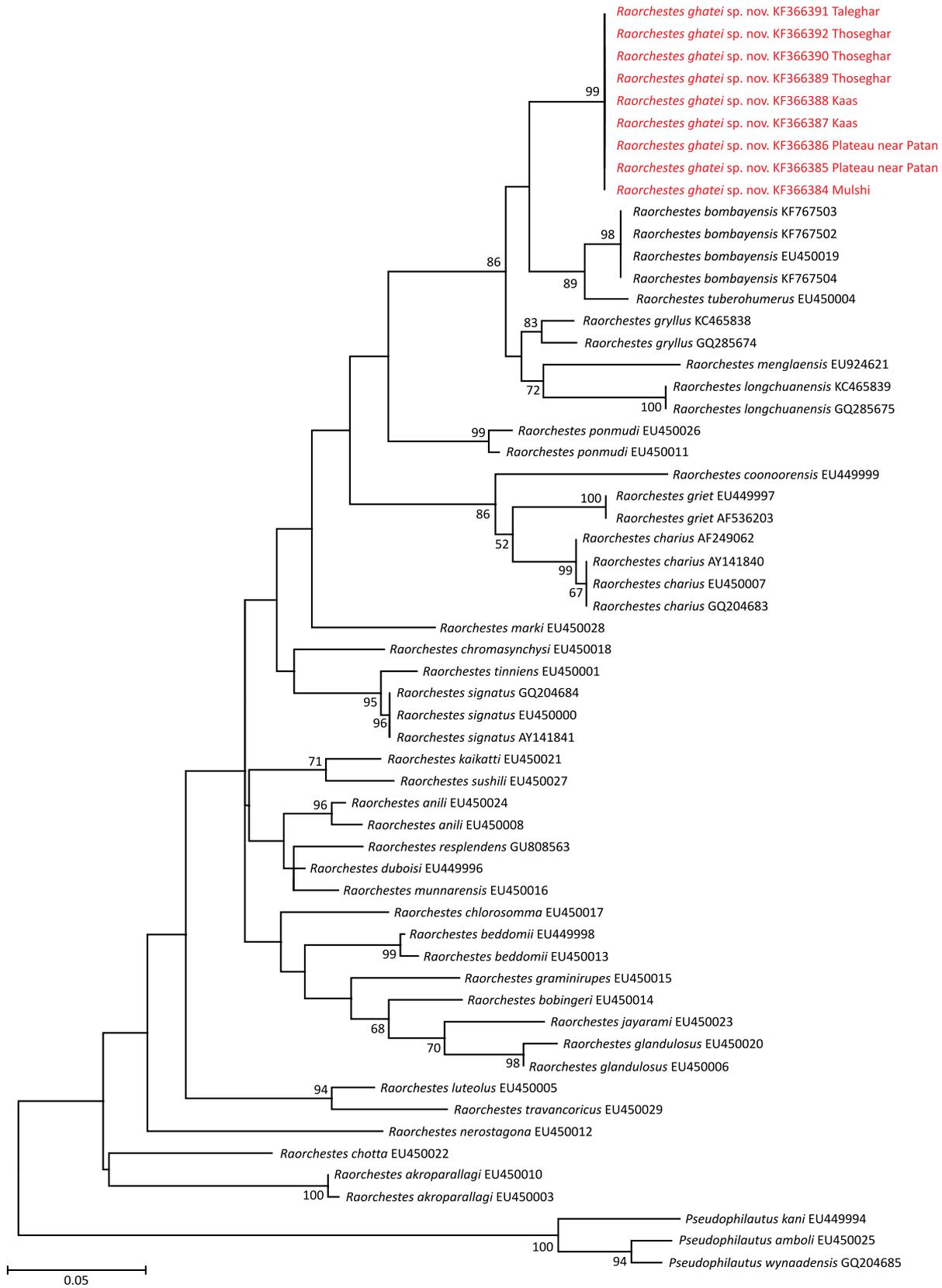


Figure 2. Maximum likelihood analysis of partial 16S rRNA gene. Tree for all *Raorchestes* species for which 16S rRNA gene data is available where the new species is depicted in red. Values on the node are percent bootstrap values for 1000 iterations. *Pseudophilautus* species from Western Ghats are used as outgroup.



Image 9. Colour and pattern variation on the flank and thigh region of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. in life. All specimens are from the single population at Thoseghar. Specimens not collected.



Image 10. Habitat at the type locality of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov.



Image 11. Developmental stages of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. (a) Eggs clutches under the stone on forest floor in Dongarwadi, (b) developing embryo in the egg and (c) newly hatched juvenile.

Pair wise distance between *R. ghatei* sp. nov. and the two closest Western Ghats congener *R. bombayensis* and *R. tuberothumerus* was 4.9% and 4.5% respectively, while the distance between *R. bombayensis* and *R. tuberothumerus* was just 2.2%. We could not include the following species in the analysis as the 16S rRNA data were not available: *Raorchestes annandalii* (Boulenger, 1906), *R. flaviventris* (Boulenger, 1882), *R. kakachi* Seshadri et al., 2012, *R. manipurensis* (Mathew & Sen, 2009), *R. parvulus* (Boulenger, 1893), *R. sahai* (Sarkar & Ray, 2006), *R. shillongensis* (Pillai & Chanda, 1973), *R.*

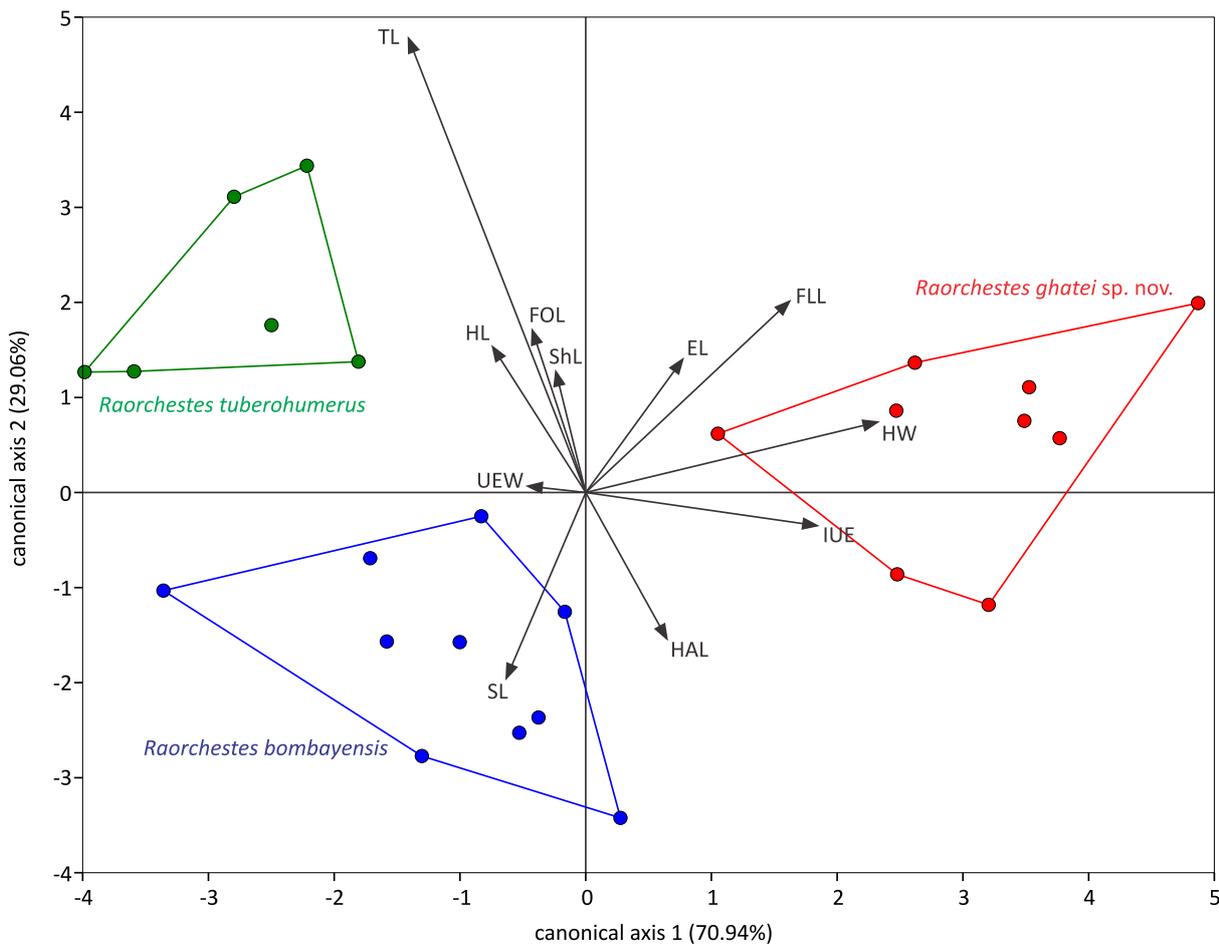


Figure 3. MANOVA/CVA of size adjusted morphometric data as percentage of SVL for adult males. *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. forms a separate cluster distinct from *R. bombayensis* and *R. tuberothumerus* on the first canonical axis.

terebrans (Das & Chanda, 1998) and *R. thodai* Zachariah et al., 2011. However, these species are morphologically distinct and have different geographical distributions. The following species were included in the earlier draft of the manuscript but are removed from the current analysis as the sequences which were then available in the public database were made unavailable while the manuscript was in review: *Raorchestes uthamani* Zachariah et al., 2011 (JX092722), *R. agasthyaensis* Zachariah et al., 2011 (JX092723, JX092646), *R. chalazodes* (Günther, 1876) (JX092676), *R. crustai* Zachariah et al., 2011 (JX092677), *R. johnceei* Zachariah et al., 2011 (JX092679), *R. kadalarensis* Zachariah et al., 2011 (JX092702, JX092701), *R. manohari* Zachariah et al., 2011 (JX092674), *R. ochlandrae* (Gururaja et al., 2007) (JX092666) and *R. theuerkaufi* Zachariah et al., 2011 (JX092693). Genetically, *R. ghatei* sp. nov. is different from these species.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Size adjusted morphometric data was multivariate normal (Doornik & Hansen omnibus, $Ep = 29.19$, $P = 0.1395$). Three species formed significantly different clusters in MANOVA/CVA (Pillai's trace = 1.593, $F_{22,26} = 4.624$, $P = 0.0002$). Fisher's distances among the three clusters were significant (*R. ghatei* sp. nov. vs. *R. bombayensis*, $F = 7.099$, $P = 0.001$; *R. ghatei* sp. nov. vs. *R. tuberothumerus*, $F = 14.765$, $P < 0.0001$; *R. bombayensis* vs. *R. tuberothumerus*, $F = 3.929$, $P = 0.014$). *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. differs from *R. bombayensis* and *R. tuberothumerus* in having longer inter-upper eyelid width (IUE), fore limb length (FLL) and head width (HW) (Fig. 3). *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. differs from *R. bombayensis* in having lesser snout length (SL) to eye length (EL) ratio (Fig. 4). *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. differs from *R. tuberothumerus* in having higher inter upper eyelid width (IUE) (Fig. 4a) and snout the vent length (SVL) (Fig. 4b).

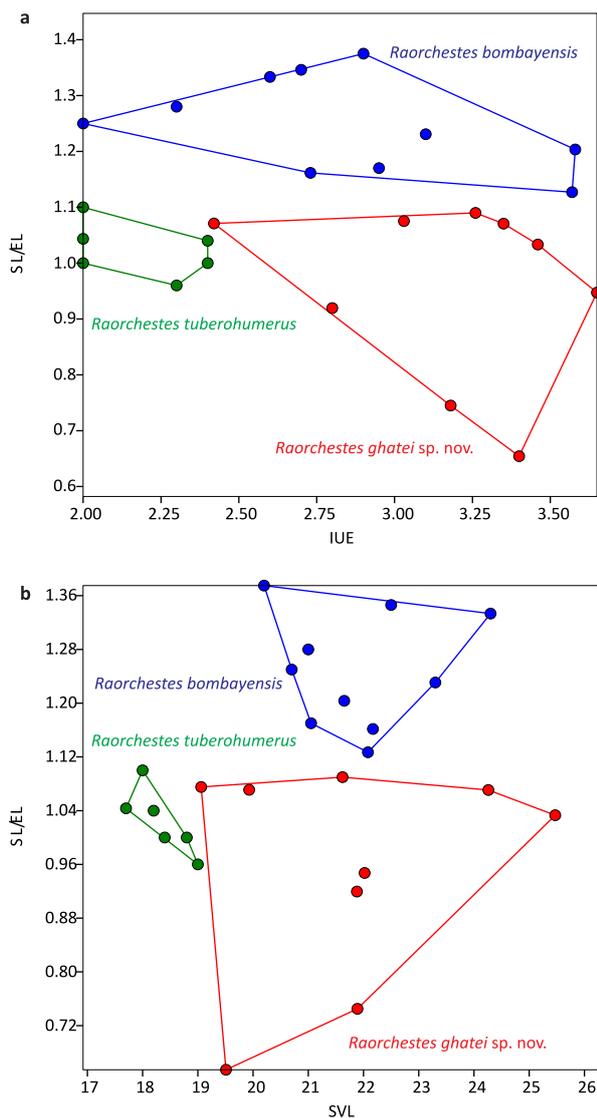


Figure 4. Morphometric differences between males of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov., *R. bombayensis* and *R. tuberochumerus*. (a) ratio of snout length (SL) and eye length (EL) vs. inter upper eyelid distance (IUE) and (b) ratio of SL and EL vs. snout vent length (SVL).

DISCUSSION

Annandale (1919) described *Ixalus bombayensis* (= *Raorchestes bombayensis*) from Castle Rock, and also mentioned that the species is more common in Khas (= Kaas) in Satara and Khandalla (= Khandala) in Poona (= Pune). However, Biju & Bossuyt (2009) have restricted the northern most distribution of *R. bombayensis* to Amboli in Maharashtra. Biju & Bossuyt (2009) in their revision of the taxa mentions that “Annandale’s report of this species from ‘Khas, Satara district’ (ZSIC 18782–18813) and ‘Khandalla, Poona district’ (ZSIC 1814–1818), which are severely damaged specimens still

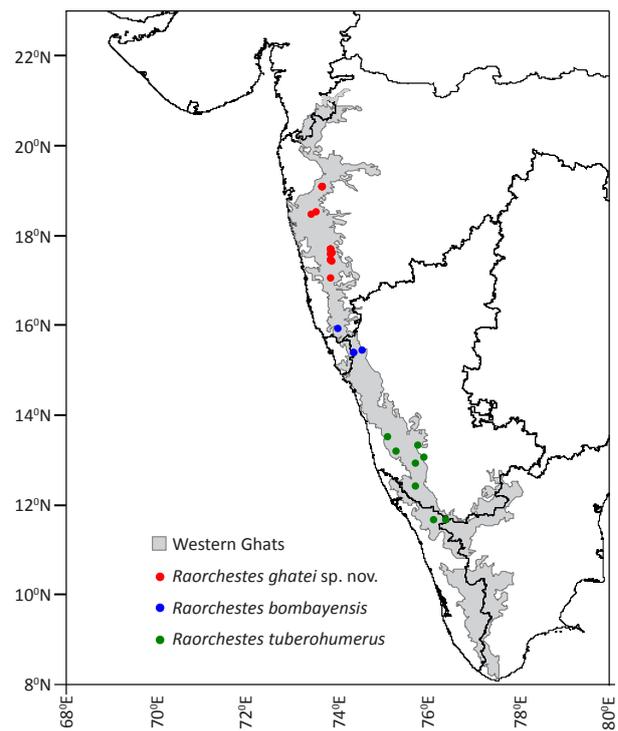


Figure 5. Distribution of three species based on current study and data provided in Biju & Bossuyt (2009).

available at ZSIC (Annandale 1919), was in error”. Our genetic and morphometric analysis of populations of *Raorchestes* found in Kaas and north up to Taleghar near Bhimashankar suggests that the taxa found in this area is indeed different from *R. bombayensis*, which is described as *R. ghatei* sp. nov. in the current communication. Distribution map for *R. bombayensis*, *R. ghatei* sp. nov. and *R. tuberochumerus*, based on the current knowledge of the distribution of the three species, as evident from Biju & Bossuyt (2009) and the current study, is shown in Fig. 5. It is essential to note that the previous records of *R. bombayensis* from the northern Western Ghats, based on morphological characters, especially from the distribution range of *R. ghatei* sp. nov. need verification. Based on the examination of vouchers, we suggest that the records of *R. bombayensis* from Tamhini (Dahanukar & Padhye 2005) and Taleghar (Dahanukar et al. 2013), should be considered as *R. ghatei* sp. nov. *tuberochumerus* from Thoseghar by Padhye & Ghatge (2012) should also be assigned to *R. ghatei* sp. nov.

Phylogenetically, *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. is nested within a monophyletic group consisting of *R. bombayensis* and *R. tuberochumerus* from the Western Ghats and *R. gryllus*, *R. longchuanensis* and *R. menglaensis* from Viet Nam and China. Yu et al. (2009, 2010) have already suggested that some species of *Raorchestes*

from China and Viet Nam are nested within the Western Ghats radiation of *Raorchestes*. *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. has a distribution in between the southern most member *R. tuberochumerus* in this clade and the species in China and Viet Nam. Biogeographical significance of this finding, however, needs further investigations.

Raorchestes ghatei sp. nov. can be differentiated from the closely related species from the phylogenetic tree as follows. *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. differs from *R. bombayensis* in absence of tongue papilla (vs. presence), absence of nuptial pad (vs. presence), dorsal skin finely granulated (vs. coarsely granulated) and lower SL/EL ratio (vs. higher). *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. can be differentiated from *R. tuberochumerus* in having robust body (vs. slender body), longer SVL (vs. smaller), ventrally snout slightly projecting beyond mouth (vs. projecting beyond mouth), wider IUE (vs. narrow). *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. differs from *R. gryllus* in having round pupil (vs. horizontal), small and indistinct tympanum (vs. big and distinct) relative to eye diameter, ventral surface coarsely granular (vs. slightly granular) and absence of dermal fringe (vs. well developed dermal fringe). *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. differs from *R. longchuanensis* in ventrally snout slightly projecting beyond mouth (vs. projecting beyond mouth) and head wider than long (vs. longer or equal to wide). *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. differs from *R. menglaensis* in having dorsal skin smooth or finely granulated (vs. coarsely granulated) and snout mucronate (vs. acutely pointed).

Osteological and genetic study of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. has revealed that the tubercle on the humeral bone, a character which was previously considered specific for *R. tuberochumerus*, is in fact a sexually dimorphic character present only in males. In the description of *R. tuberochumerus*, Kuramoto & Joshy (2003) mentioned that they failed to collect females of the species. However, we believe that even in *R. tuberochumerus*, the females may be devoid of the tubercle on the humeral bone. Ecological significance of this sexually dimorphic character is yet to be determined but our initial observations suggests that it might be used by males for clasping the females during amplexus. Another possibility is that the tubercle might be useful in clinging to the small shrubs in windy habitats in Western Ghats. This is especially true for males who are found on the trunks giving the advertisement calls, while the females are mostly found on the ground.

Presence of a lingual pit in the case of *Raorchestes ghatei* sp. nov. (Image 3a), apposed to a papilla in the case of *R. bombayensis* is an interesting finding of our study. In

an extensive review on median lingual processes in frogs, Grant et al. (1997) have suggested that the presence of a median lingual pit does not necessarily mean the presence of a median lingual process. While taking an example from the museum collection of American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Grant et al. (1997) argued that in *R. bombayensis* there is presence of a pit rather than a retracted process. However, the specimen (AMNH 40044) photographed by Grant et al. (1997) is from Satara, which is within the distributional range of *R. ghatei* sp. nov. Therefore, the arguments raised by Grant et al. (1997) are for *R. ghatei* sp. nov. and not for *R. bombayensis*. *Raorchestes bombayensis* has a well-defined papilla which can be seen in live specimens (Image 3b) as well as the holotype of *R. bombayensis* (Appendix D). In *R. tuberochumerus* an ill-defined pit is present even though a papilla is absent (Image 3c).

Raorchestes ghatei sp. nov. is widely distributed in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra and is common in most of the forest patches. Even though no specific threats could be identified for the species, continuous deforestation in these areas leading to habitat fragmentation could be a threat to the species. Several localities from which the species is currently known are also subject to tourism and recreational activities. There is a large wind farm near the type locality at Chalkewadi and the other localities are also potential wind farm sites. Pande et al. (2013) have discussed threat of wind farms to avifauna wherein they discuss the windmill erection activity to be a measured threat to general diversity as well. Recently, Dahanukar et al. (2013) reported the presence of chytrid fungal infection in morphologically identified *R. bombayensis* from Taleghar, which should be attributed to the *R. ghatei* sp. nov. based on the current study. Therefore, it can be suggested that the species is prone to chytrid infection. Even though the effect of chytrid on this species is not available, further studies are essential on this topic. Furthermore, a detailed study on the ecology, distribution, population status and threats to the populations is essential to evaluate the conservation status of this species.

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Appendix A. Voucher and GenBank accession numbers for sequences used in molecular analysis.

Species	Voucher	GenBank Accession number
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	ZSI-WRC A/1484	KF366384
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	WILD-13-AMP-100	KF366385
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	AGCZRL-Amphibia-130	KF366386
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	WILD-13-AMP-104	KF366387
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	WILD-13-AMP-105	KF366388
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	AGCZRL-Amphibia-125	KF366389
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	AGCZRL-Amphibia-127	KF366390
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	AGCZRL-Amphibia-128	KF366391
<i>Raorchestes ghatei</i> sp. nov.	WILD-13-AMP-080	KF366392
<i>Raorchestes akroparallagi</i>	0317Phi018b*	EU450010
<i>Raorchestes akroparallagi</i>	0071Phi018*	EU450003
<i>Philautus anili</i>	1400PhiAni*	EU450024
<i>Philautus anili</i>	0307PhiAni*	EU450008
<i>Philautus beddomii</i>	0030PhiBed*	EU449998
<i>Philautus beddomii</i>	1153PhiBed*	EU450013
<i>Raorchestes bobingeri</i>	BNHS 4273	EU450014
<i>Raorchestes bombayensis</i>	BNHS 4418	EU450019
<i>Raorchestes bombayensis</i>	WILD-13-AMP-230	KF767502
<i>Raorchestes bombayensis</i>	WILD-13-AMP-231	KF767503
<i>Raorchestes bombayensis</i>	AGCZRL-Amphibia-172	KF767504
<i>Raorchestes charius</i>	-	AF249062
<i>Raorchestes charius</i>	-	AY141840
<i>Raorchestes charius</i>	0081PhiCha_type*	EU450007
<i>Raorchestes charius</i>	-	GQ204683
<i>Raorchestes chlorosomma</i>	BNHS 4426	EU450017
<i>Raorchestes chotta</i>	BNHS 4429	EU450022
<i>Raorchestes chromasynchysi</i>	BNHS 4433	EU450018
<i>Raorchestes coonoorensis</i>	BNHS 4446	EU449999
<i>Raorchestes dubois</i>	BNHS 5285	EU449996

Species	Voucher	GenBank Accession number
<i>Raorchestes glandulosus</i>	1369PhiGla*	EU450020
<i>Raorchestes glandulosus</i>	0077PhiGla*	EU450006
<i>Raorchestes graminirupes</i>	BNHS 4266	EU450015
<i>Raorchestes griet</i>	BNHS 4455	EU449997
<i>Raorchestes griet</i>	-	AF536203
<i>Raorchestes gryllus</i>	ROM 38828	KC465838
<i>Raorchestes gryllus</i>	ROM 30288	GQ285674
<i>Raorchestes jayarami</i>	SDB 1379	EU450023
<i>Raorchestes kaikatti</i>	BNHS 4557	EU450021
<i>Raorchestes longchuanensis</i>	7Rao	KC465839
<i>Raorchestes longchuanensis</i>	5Rao	GQ285675
<i>Raorchestes luteolus</i>	BNHS 4478	EU450005
<i>Raorchestes marki</i>	BNHS 4537	EU450028
<i>Raorchestes menglaensis</i>	KIZ060821286	EU924621
<i>Raorchestes munnarensis</i>	BNHS 4481	EU450016
<i>Raorchestes nerostagona</i>	BNHS 4244	EU450012
<i>Raorchestes ponmudi</i>	1451PhiPonb*	EU450026
<i>Raorchestes ponmudi</i>	1121PhiPon*	EU450011
<i>Raorchestes resplendens</i>	SDB-2010	GU808563
<i>Raorchestes signatus</i>	-	GQ204684
<i>Raorchestes signatus</i>	BNHS 4489	EU450000
<i>Raorchestes signatus</i>	-	AY141841
<i>Raorchestes sushili</i>	BNHS 4544	EU450027
<i>Raorchestes tinniensi</i>	BNHS 4548	EU450001
<i>Raorchestes travancoricus</i>	BNHS 4557	EU450029
<i>Raorchestes tuberochumerus</i>	BNHS 4590	EU450004
<i>Pseudophilautus kani</i>	BNHS 4472	EU449994
<i>Pseudophilautus wynaadensis</i>	-	GQ204685
<i>Pseudophilautus amboli</i>	BNHS 4399	EU450025

* Voucher numbers for these isolates cannot be determined based on the information given in Biju & Bossuyt (2009).

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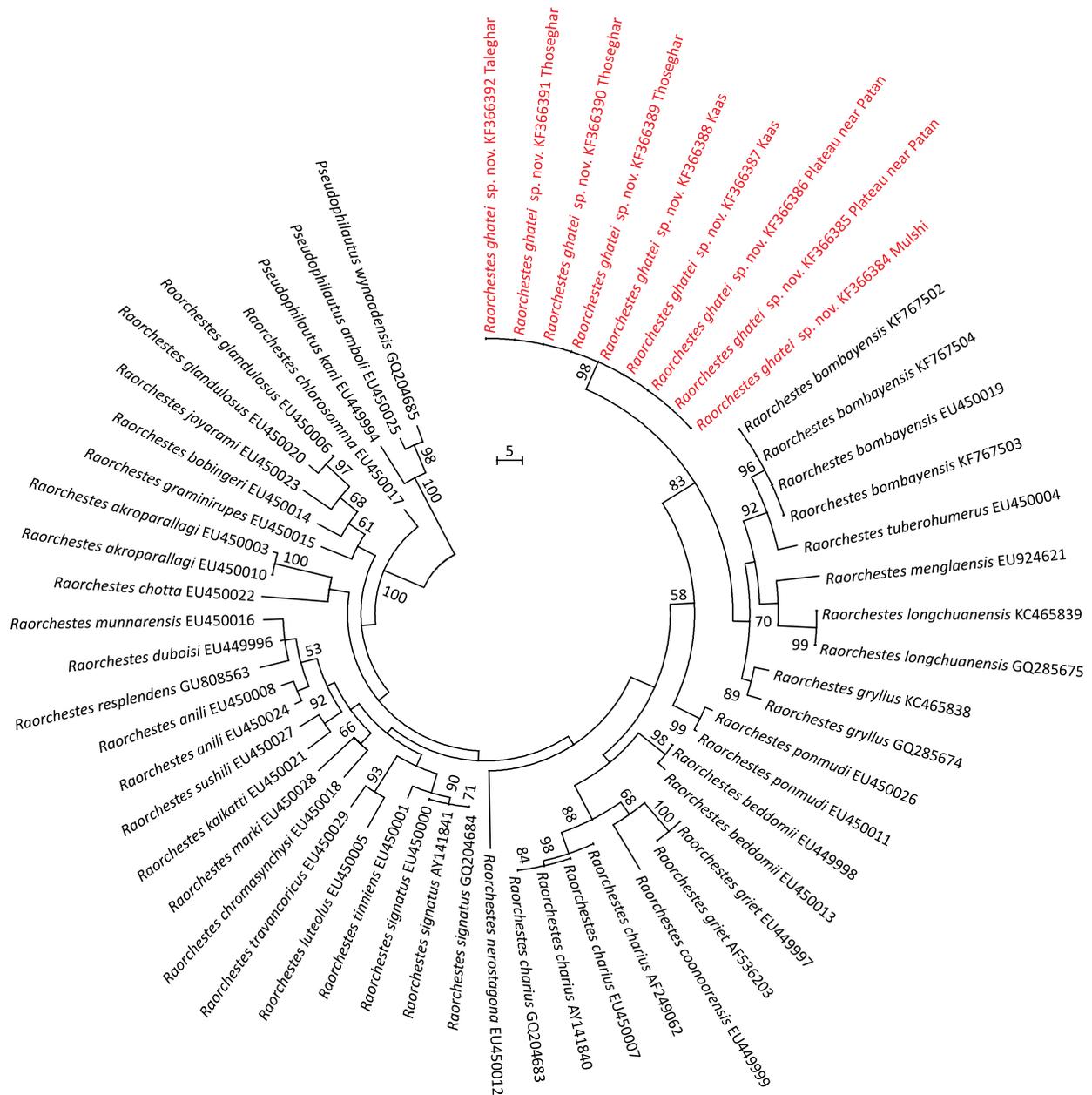
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Appendix B. Maximum Parsimony based phylogenetic tree using 16S rRNA gene sequences of *Raorchestes* species. *Pseudophilautus* species from Western Ghats are used as outgroup. Values on the node are percent bootstrap values for 1000 iterations.

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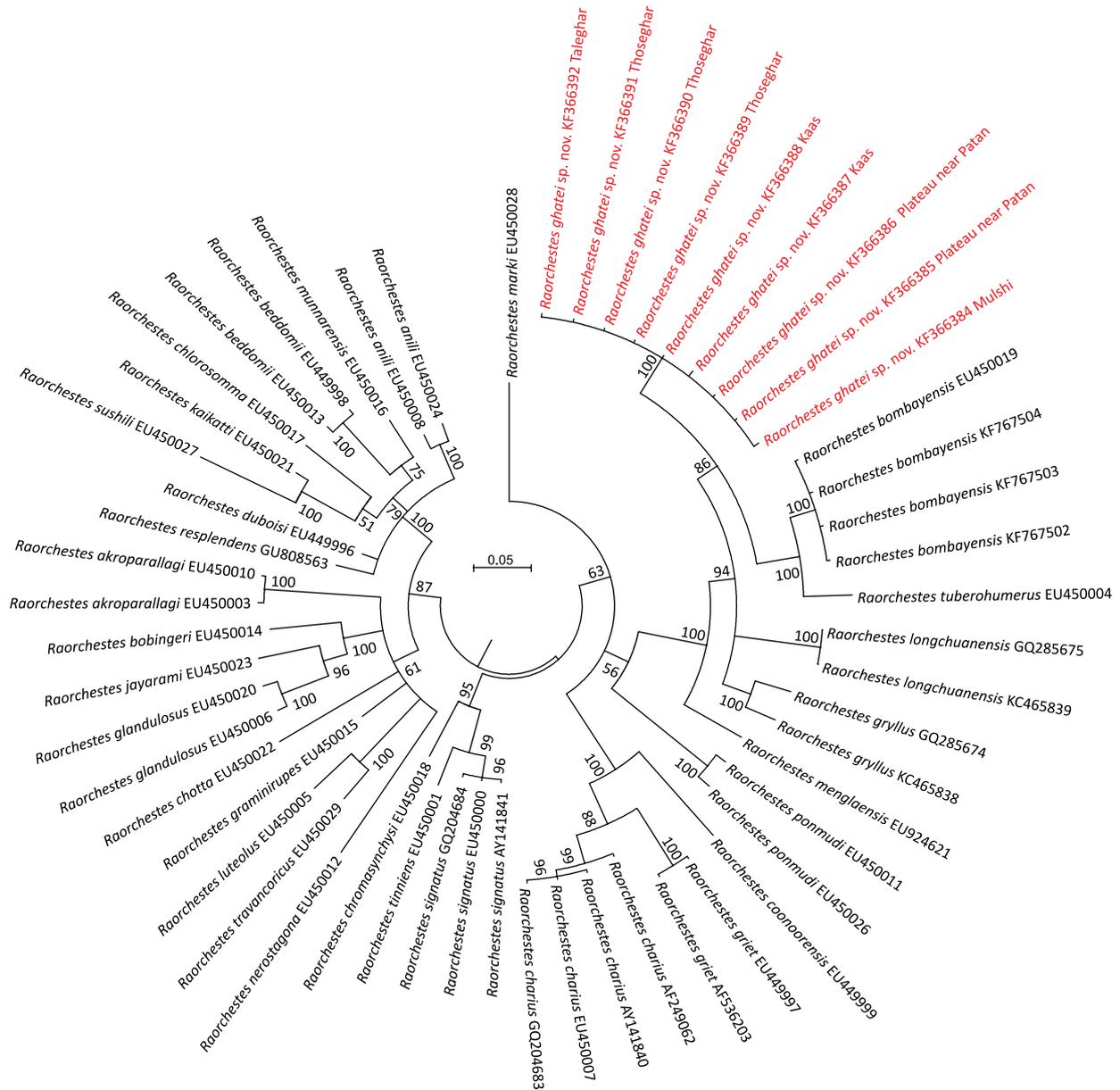
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Appendix C. Unrooted phylogenetic tree of *Raorchestes* species using 16S rRNA gene based on Bayesian analysis. Posterior probabilities given at the nodes are in percentages.

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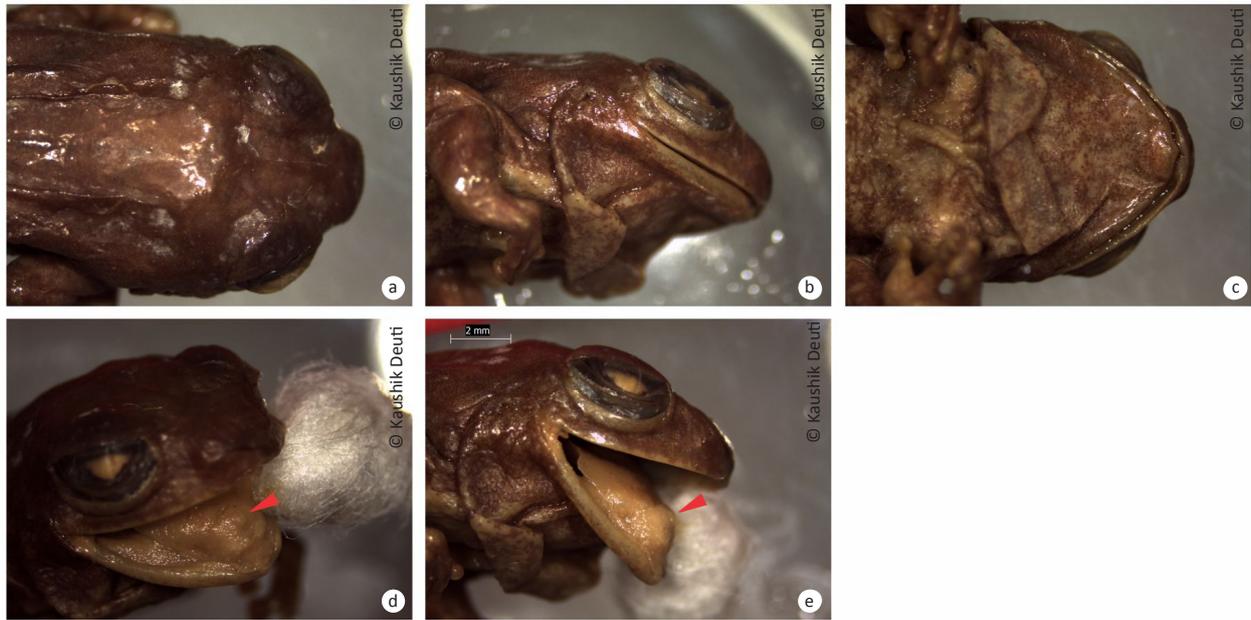
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Appendix D. Head in the dorsal view (a), lateral view (b) and ventral view(c) of *Raorchestes bombayensis* holotype (ZSIC 18287). The papilla on the tongue is shown in (d) and (e).

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COMPARATIVE MATERIAL

Raorchestes bombayensis: ZSIC 18287 (Holotype), BNHS 4589, BNHS 4418, BNHS 4419, WILD-13-AMP-230, WILD-13-AMP-231; AGCZRL-Amphibia-169, AGCZRL-Amphibia-172, AGCZRL-Amphibia-173, AGCZRL-Amphibia-174.

Raorchestes tuberohumerosus: BNHS 4193 (Holotype), BNHS 4194 (Paratype), BNHS 4512, BNHS 4590, BNHS 4498, BNHS 4499.

Raorchestes glandulosus: BNHS 4454, BNHS 1844-5

Raorchestes coonoorensis: BNHS 4444 (Holotype), BNHS 4446 (Paratype).

Raorchestes charius: BNHS 4424, BNHS 4036, BNHS 4422, BNHS 4421.

Raorchestes griet: BNHS 4457, BNHS 4464.

Raorchestes ponmudi: BNHS 4484, BNHS 4483.

Raorchestes luteolus: BNHS 4476, BNHS 4477, BNHS 4478.

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Raorchestes longchuanensis: photographs of holotype KIZ 74110046 available at http://www.dwbwg.org/museum_ky/museum_ky3/museum_ky35/201208/t20120827_3634228.html

Raorchestes menglaensis: photographs of live specimen available at CallPhotos – http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?where-taxon=Raorchestes+menglaensis&rel-taxon=begin+with&where-lifeform=specimen_tag&rel-lifeform=ne

