



A Pictorial Guide to
Uda Walawe
National Park

Edited by Sarath Kotagama



Contributors

Plants

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Text: Meauranga Perera

Molluscs

Based on: A Guide to the Freshwater Fauna of Ceylon & T.G.M. Priyadarshana
Illustrations & Photographs: An Illustrated Guide to the Land Snails of Sri Lanka Natural Forest and Cultivated Habitats & T.G.M. Priyadarshana

Arthropoda

Photographs & Illustrations: Internet Photographs & A Guide to the Freshwater Fauna of Ceylon
Based on: A Guide to the Freshwater Fauna of Ceylon
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Dung Beetles

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Spiders

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Dragonflies

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Butterflies

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Fishes

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Frogs

Illustrations: Pruthiviraj Fernando
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Reptiles

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Birds

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Mammals

Illustrations: Gamini Ratnavira
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Other Photographs

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Amphibians

(Plates 68-69)

Amphibians are thought to have been the first vertebrates to have evolved to live away from water. These animals are capable of living both in water and on land. Modern amphibians breathe through their skins and require moist habitats to survive. Despite this specialized requirement, amphibians have evolved into over 250 genera and 2000+ species around the world.

Sri Lanka is represented by 111 species belonging to seven families. When Prof. Keerthisinghe first surveyed Sri Lanka's amphibians in 1956 he was able to name only 39 species. However, through the years, specially during the last 20 years, we have seen a surge of new species identified in Family Rhacophoridae (tree/bush frogs) some of which are visually spectacular.

In Sri Lanka approximately 35% of frog species do not show a 'tadpole' stage. Instead, they develop within an egg and 'froglets', tiny adult frogs, hatch out. This phenomenon is called 'direct development'.

The total number of frog species in Sri Lanka is 111. They belong to the families Bufonidae, Dicroglossidae, Microhylidae, Nyctibatrachidae, Ranidae, Rhacophoridae, and Ichthyophidae. Nearly 65% of Sri Lanka's frogs belong to the Rhacophoridae.

1. Common Toad *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*

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Male: 50.3–90.0mm., Female: 70.0–95.0mm. Colour variable - olive, brown or brick red - venter whitish-brown with brown spots. Entirely terrestrial, widely distributed in Sri Lanka.

2. Common Bull Frog *Kaloula taprobanica*

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56.4mm. Globular in shape, snout short. Dorsally reddish-orange, venter pale yellowish-grey. Spotted with dark brown or black. This burrowing frog is found on wet leaf litter.

3. Ornate Narrow-mouth Frog *Microhyla ornata*

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Mature males: 17.0-22.0mm., Females: 22.0-25.0mm. Head broader than long, bluntly pointed snout. Dorsally light brown with pinkish-olive or grey markings. Belly whitish-yellow. Found in leaf litter in the daytime.

4. Red Narrow-mouth Frog *Microhyla rubra*

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Mature males: 20.0-27.5mm., Females 20.5-29.5mm. Head broader than long. Snout rounded and short. Dorsally light brown or reddish-brown, a black lateral band from tip of snout through eye to groin, belly white. Common in the Dry Zone. Found in leaf litter in the daytime.

5. White-bellied Pug-snout Frog *Ramanella variegata*

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35.0mm. Head broader than long, snout short. Dorsal colour pale brown with olive or irregular dark brown patches, belly white with pale brown spots. Found on the rough bark of trees, in crevices, and humid places in houses, eg., toilets.

6. Indian Skipper Frog *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*

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Mature males: 35.0-45.0mm., Females: 50.0-65.0mm. Snout bluntly pointed. Dorsally brownish or olive brown, spotted. This frog is especially well adapted to aquatic life and is active both during day and night.



1. Six-toed Green Frog *Euphlyctis hexadactylus*
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Mature males: 58.0-86.8mm., Females: 58.5-120.0mm. Head is longer than it is broad. Dorsal surface bright green or mud-brown. Belly pale yellow or creamy white. Purely aquatic, common and widely distributed in reservoirs, rivers, and marshes.
2. Jerdon's Bull Frog *Hoplobatrachus crassus*
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Mature males: 65.0-80.0mm., Females: 75.0-121.0mm. Head is longer than it is broader. Dorsal colour brown or greenish brown, belly white. Inhabits large water bodies, slow flowing channels, and swamps.
3. Common Hour-glass Tree frog *Polypedates cruciger*
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Mature males: 50.0-59.8mm., Females: 72.0-90.0mm. Dorsally pale brownish orange, a dark brown hourglass-shaped marking mid-dorsum. Belly white. This is an entirely arboreal species found in human-occupied habitats and wet woody areas.
4. Spotted Tree frog *Polypedates maculatus*
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Mature males: 34.5-45.7mm., Females: 43.5-70.0mm. Head longer than it is broad or equal. Dorsal colour olivaceous to chestnut. It is found in human-modified habitats such as houses.
5. Common Paddyfield Frog *Fejervarya limnocharis*
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Mature males: 19.2-37.0mm., Female: 23.0-50.0mm. Head longer than it is broad. Snout blunt. Dorsally greenish or grayish olive. Abundant in the vicinity of water bodies.
6. Sri Lanka Wood frog *Haylarana gracilis* ●
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Mature males: 32.3-53.7mm., Females: 53.5-67.6mm. Head longer than broad. Dorsally pinkish light brown. A yellowish golden stripe extends from the upper lip to region of the groin. Semi-arboreal. Usually found on wet grasses around water bodies.

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