



Saving the World one Drawing at a Time

Saving the World One Drawing at a Time is the inspiration of Brenda Sherburn, a sculptor living in Fairfax, Virginia. The idea behind her project is to have teens & children volunteer to make and donate drawings which are then auctioned with proceeds going towards the “wish lists” of various environmental organizations and people working to save threatened species. Money raised is sent in support of a specifically chosen environmental project, which the kids designate from a list of those partnering with Saving the World One Drawing at a Time.



Drawing by Garin W.

As Brenda explains: “As a teacher, I could not find easy ways for children and teens to volunteer for environmental causes. I thought there should be a website that connects the youth with organizations that need help. Providing something from a “wish list” for these organizations and individuals looked like an obtainable goal to me. So here I am giving it a try. If I can get 100 kids to auction off their artwork

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for as little as \$10 each, that is \$1000 towards some very needed wishes for an organization. Thus in our small way we can make an important contribution to these organizations, which do the much needed and difficult work to help save our planet.”



Golden frog, Panama



Drawing by Lauren W. grade 4

There are ten great projects currently being supported around the world, two of which are focused on amphibians. Brenda recently met with a group of 3rd & 4th graders at Marin Enrichment and they talked about Jodi Rowley and Denise Quelquejeu’s Amphibian Projects in Vietnam & Panama respectively. She explained the significance of Denise’s work and that seeing a Golden Frog in Panama is a symbol of good fortune. Jodi will actually give the kids in Vietnam who volunteer a follow-up report

with photos of her survey and the amphibians that she finds. In a letter written by Jodi, she shares some of the struggles she is faced with:

“I was trying to get a website set up, but have been struggling with dengue fever at the same time (that’s one downside to working over here- the tropical diseases!). Anyway, I decided to focus on Vietnam in particular, as the amphibians of Vietnam are much more diverse, and under greater threats. I prepared the website specifically for your program.”. Both these researchers need money for equipment and surveys throughout the year. The 25 young artists at Kentfield



A grateful Jodi Rowley and frog in Vietnam

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that participated produced beautiful frog drawings and we even got a salamander drawing! They will be



Drawing by Claire K. grade 4

posted and auctioned off to directly help Jodi & Denise's work. If you have a business and would like to match the money Marin Enrichment kids bring in, you can sponsor these children and help Jodi & Denise's program thrive! Please, email saveworlddraw@mac.com for more information.

By learning about the work

these organizations are trying to do and the problems they are facing, people are encouraged to be part of the solution and to adopt the missions of the organizations and people working to save these species. You can follow the projects that are being supported by visiting their webpage on saveworlddraw.org. Brenda



Drawing by Thomas S.J. grade 3



Drawing by Matt B. grade 4

will be doing ongoing write-ups for every project so those participants in the program can follow the progress being made. There is positive energy at the Saving The World One Drawing At A Time website, as each of projects deals with a critical situation, and the website focuses on solutions.

The ongoing saga for the projects is still unwritten. Brenda hopes for strong support from parents and schools. The donated art for the auction can be found by visiting the website.

ASG NEWS

Changing Faces in the ASG

After three successful years as the International Coordinator for the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force (DAPTF) and throughout its transition to the IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG), Jeanne McKay will be leaving to continue her conservation work as the Recruiting and Alumni Manager for the Rare Pride program, UK.

Jeanne said, "It has been a great privilege to work with innumerable amphibian researchers and conser-

vationists from all over the world. I wish the recently appointed ASG Working Group Chairs every success with their amphibian research and conservation pursuits. I would especially like to thank the former international Director of the DAPTF, Tim Halliday, for his enormous contribution to amphibian research and for his continued guidance and support. It has been a pleasure to work with the ASG co-Chairs, Claude Gascon and Jim Collins as well as the ASG secretariat staff, Don Church and Robin Moore. I

look forward to our paths crossing again in the near future!"

We are enormously grateful to Jeanne for ensuring a seamless and successful transition of the former DAPTF into the ASG and wish her well for the future.

Robin Moore, Conservation International's Amphibian Conservation Officer, will take over as Editor of Froglog and together with Don Church will be responsible for managing the ASG's Seed Grant Program and Global Working Group network.

ASG Global Network

We are pleased to announce that the complete ASG Global Network of Regional and National Chairs is posted at www.amphibians.org. We are very grateful to all those who have accepted a

position as Chair or Co-Chair and look forward to working with all of you. One of the aims of the ASG is to catalyze conservation actions by forging partnerships and collaboration - we hope that by having points of contact in each Region

of the world, we will facilitate communication among conservationists and researchers. Please contact the appropriate regional Chair regarding any amphibian work that you are undertaking or planning in your region.

SEED GRANT REPORTS

Reports and publications from previous DAPTF Seed Grants

Recipients of former DAPTF Seed Grants are generally expected to publish the results of their projects in refereed journals, or as articles in *Froglog*. They are also required to send reports, so that their results can be made available to ASG members. Below is a report that has been received recently. Anyone wanting a copy of it should contact the author in the first instance; if you cannot reach the author, please contact Tim Halliday - t.r.halliday@open.ac.uk.

Muhammad Iqbal Setiadi, Ben Evans, Amir Hamidy, Zainal Abidin Yusufpati & Dwi Susanto. (2006) Speciation and Distribution Patterns of Amphibians and Reptiles in Halmahera, Indonesia. (setiadmi@mcmaster.ca)

J. Susanne Hauswaldt, Jessika Füssel, Claudio Angelini, Diethard Tautz, Sebastian Steinfartz. (2006) Population genetics of the endangered Spectacled Salamander, *Salamandrina perspicillata* and *S. terdigitata*.

([\[bielefeld.de\]\(http://bielefeld.de\)\)](mailto:sebastian.steinfartz@uni-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

• The following papers report work supported by former DAPTF Seed Grants:

Alemu, I. J. B., Cazabon, N. M. E., Dempewolf, L., Hailey, A., Lehtinen, R. M., Mannette, R. P., Naranjit, K., & Roach, A. C. J. (2007) Ecological observations on the critically endangered Tobago endemic frog *Mannophryne olmonae*. *Applied Herpetol*: 4; 377-386. (Grants to Adrian Hailey et al., 2005, funded by Chester Zoo.)

(adrian.hailey@sta.uwi.edu)

Population and Health of Common Toads Across Agricultural Lands: Implications in Worldwide Declines

Paola M. Peltzer, Rafael C. Lajmanovich, Andrés M. Attademo, Mariana Cabagna, Gabriela Fiorenza, Celina

M. Junges and Agustín Bassó

Emerging evidence indicates that loss of habitat as a result of agricultural development may be contributing to reductions in anuran diversity in some locations. Although, this vertebrate group is commonly used in laboratory toxicity tests, few field studies have produced evidence a significant relationship between agricultural activities and amphibian respons-

es. The overall goal of this research was to determine the diversity and health of toad populations on agricultural lands of Entre Ríos Province (Argentina). The three selected species in this study (*Chaunus fernandezae*, *C. arenarum*, and *C. schneideri*) are widely distributed in Argentina and have relatively small home ranges (Lajmanovich 1995), making them excellent bio-indicators of contamination at a

local scale.

The Primary Objectives of this study were: a) estimate the diversity and composition of toads in soybean cropland; b) determine the extent of cholinesterase activity in common adult toads of agricultural sites; c) establish hematological parameters of adults, and d) detect genotoxic effects of pesticide in erythrocytes of tadpoles.

We studied agricultural sites in the

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Mid-west region of Entre Ríos Province. It presents the biggest expansion of agricultural lands and fragmentation of the landscape. Ten soybean fields and two control sites were sampled for larvae and adults during breeding events (coincident with period of soybean cultivation).

During the day, surveys were conducted to detect anuran egg masses and tadpoles, while night surveys included active searches to detect non-calling anurans and listening for calling male anurans, following the guide by Heyer et al. (1994). Individual adults were transported in buckets to Ecotoxicology Lab of FBCB-UNL for laboratory analysis. Each individual was anesthetized using the guide by ASIH et al. (2001), sexed, measured for snout-vent length (SVL; to nearest mm) with a caliper and mass (g) with a balance.

Adult malformations were analyzed following the descriptions detailed in the field guide to malformations of frogs and toads (Meteyer, 2000). To take representative samples and comparable data we used adult of three bufonid species for this parameter. Samples of blood (ca. 300-500 µL) were extracted in anesthetized adult animals by cardiac puncture using a small heparinized needle, previously locating the heart via palpation. The anurans then were released in the same sites in which they were captured. Plasma BChE activity was determined colorimetrically by the method of Ellman et al. (1961) with some modifications (Sánchez-Hernández & Moreno Sánchez, 2002). Hematocrit, hemoglobin concentration, mean of cell hemoglobin, mean cell volume, mean

cell hemoglobin concentrations, red blood cell, and white blood cell were determined for each toad species following the protocols of Cabagna et al. (2005).

For micronuclei (MN) tests we conducted field experiments with *Scinax nasicus* (Anura, Hyliidae) tadpoles caged in agricultural ponds, because this species is not gregarious and is larger than *Chaunus* tadpoles. Three replicates of each in situ chamber (ten tadpoles of similar Gosner development stage (st. 37) were located in each pond under plant shade). Samples of blood was extracted in anesthetized tadpoles by cardiac puncture. Two peripheral blood smears for each tadpole were prepared on clean slides, fixed and stained by the May-Grunwald-Giemsa method. The MN frequency was determined in 1,000 erythrocytes from each tadpole using 1,000 X magnification. Other alterations of the erythrocytes were also registered.

Relative abundance.

The most common toad species observed was *Chaunus fernandezae*, recorded in 65% of the total ponds sampled surrounded by or within soybean croplands, followed by *C. schneideri* (21%) and *C. arenarum* (14%). Tadpoles and eggs in jelly strand were recorded for the three toad species in reference sites, but evidence of reproduction was only observed for *C. fernandezae* in ponds sampled surrounded by or within soybean croplands. The proportion of males and females of *C. fernandezae* did not differ significantly among pond samples (agricultural sites and controls). The proportion of sexes of *C. arenarum* and *C. sch-*

neideri varied significantly among agricultural ponds and reference sites, being biased towards males in the former.

We found upper eye-lid (n = 1), hindlimb (n = 3), and forelimb (n = 3) malformations in toad specimens (total specimens review n = 124) collected across agricultural sites of the Mid-west Entre Ríos Province. Moreover, similar malformations were recorded in other native species (*Leptodactylus ocellatus*, *L. chaquensis*, *L. gracilis*, *Phyllsalaemus biligonigerus*) that commonly occur in agroecosystems alongside the three study species.

Cholinesterase analysis and haematological analysis:

The mean values of plasma BChE activity varied from 1 µmol min⁻¹ml⁻¹ (*C. schneideri* at agricultural sites) to 17.31 µmol min⁻¹ml⁻¹ (*C. fernandezae* at reference sites). BChE activity was statistically lower in the amphibians collected from the agricultural sites than those from the reference site (KS test for the three species P < 0.05). Moreover, the differences in the activity of BChE were significant among the three study species (P < 0.05). In addition, the increase in plasma BChE was inversely proportional to the body weight of the three anurans (r = - 0.85; P < 0.01). However, the blood parameter examination from agriculture sites did not differ statistically to the controls (P > 0.01), in all cases lower values in agricultural sites were recorded for each haematological parameter.

The erythrocytes of caged tadpoles in natural sites were oblong-oval shaped with centric nuclei.

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Caged tadpoles at agricultural sites had MN in their erythrocytes, although there was no significant difference with respect to the control group. Moreover, erythrocytes lysis was found in higher percentages (17.51%) in tadpoles caged at agricultural sites.

Pesticides have the potential to cause dramatic variation in natural communities (Relyea 2005), yet our knowledge of their effects on natural communities is limited to cases in which pesticides have been intentionally or accidentally applied to natural sites with subsequent biota surveys. Based in our results we can determine that toads inhabiting agroecosystems are at serious risk, based on evidence indicating the response to exposure compromises health status. Indeed, we found anuran malformations across agricultural sites suggesting a link with agrochemicals contamination. Based on laboratory evidence we propose that B-sterases should be applied in field monitoring as biomarkers of pesticide exposure to wildlife because the non-destructive nature of its analysis and the sensitivity of wildlife to anti-ChE agrochemicals. These data represent the first

to indicate the response and health status of toads across agricultural lands in Argentina. Extrapolation from the present study is easy, by the use of representative species of native anuran commonly found in agroecosystems. But, before definitive conclusions can be drawn concerning the unsuitability of agricultural areas for anuran populations, long-term monitoring of population health are urgently need.

Acknowledgements: We thank very especially to Dr. Juan Carlos Sánchez-Hernández for his advice with B-sterases techniques and logistical support.

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MORE RESEARCH

Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis infects Melanophryniscus moreirae (Anura Bufonidae) from an Atlantic Rainforest area (Itatiaia), southeastern Brazil

Monique Van Sly, Thais Klaion Ferreira, Flavia Rachel Moreira Lamarão, Milton Ozório Moraes

Declines of amphibian populations driven by the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* are a concern worldwide (Berger et al., 1999; Lips et al.,

2005). Although there is evidence that not all reported amphibian declines are caused by the chytrid fungus (Daszak et al., 2005), the disease chytridiomycosis has been linked to

species declines and extinctions on several continents (Weldon & du Prez 2004, Lips et al., 2006; Mendelson et al., 2006; Schloegel et al., 2006).

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In Brazil, reported declines of amphibian populations come mainly from the Atlantic Rainforest, and also from the Cerrado (Heyer et al., 1981; Weygoldt, 1989, Guix et al., 1998, Eterovick et al., 2005). *B. dendrobatidis* has already been reported from several species in the Atlantic Rainforest, from Rio Grande do Sul (southernmost state) to Pernambuco (northeastern) (Toledo et al., 2006, Carnaval et al., 2006). However, there is not enough data to link *B. dendrobatidis* to amphibian declines in Brazil.

Melanophryniscus moreirae is a small bufonid (mean adult body size < 20mm) found in the Itatiaia Plateau and in the Serra Fina, southeast Brazil, always above 2,000 m (Bokerman, 1967; Marques et al, 2006). These toads are diurnal, and breed in shallow puddles from September to December (Bokerman, 1967; Starret, 1967; Guido-Castro, 2006). *M. moreirae* has been reported as 'declining' by Guix et al. (1998), but no systematic monitoring of this endemic toad has been carried out.

Herein we report the occurrence of *B. dendrobatidis* infecting the toad *M. moreirae* using Real time PCR.

The study was carried out on the Itatiaia Plateau in the Itatiaia National Park (PNI), located 44°34' to 44°42' W, and 22°16' to 22°28' S, southeast of Brazil. Field work was carried out in spring 2006 (October and November) as part of a monitoring program. Fifty adult males were captured between 09h

and 16h in individual new plastic bags, in which they were measured for snout-urostyle length (SUL) with a calipers (precision = 0.1mm). We firmly ran one swab (Medical Wire & Equipment Co.) in different parts of the frog's body (Kriger et al., 2006). All animals were released after sampling.

We analyzed swabs using quantitative (real-time) PCR techniques (Boyle et al. 2004, Kriger et al., 2006). We classified each sample as positive or negative for infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. Our estimates of the number of zoospores represent the mean value of *B. dendrobatidis* genome equivalents detected in the three runs of the PCR analysis.

Two individuals (SUL = 24.9mm and 26.1mm) were infected with *B. dendrobatidis*, corresponding to a prevalence (sensu Bush et al., 1997) of 4%. The numbers of zoospore equivalents were low in both individuals (1.4 and 1.5 zoospore equivalents, respectively). No evident clinical or abnormal signs were observed in these frogs.

This is the first report of *B. dendrobatidis* in *M. moreirae* and the first for the genus. Even though the prevalence and severity of infection were low, this result suggests precautionary measures be taken considering the restricted geographic range of *M. moreirae*.

Monitoring of *M. moreirae* as well as the possible evolution of the pathogen in this population should contribute to our current understanding of the dynamics of this disease and to accurately de-

termine the impact of *B. dendrobatidis* on this endemic species.

Acknowledgements.

We thank CNPq and Biodiversitas for fundings. D. Boyle from CSIRO, Australia, provided the standards. We appreciate the financial support provided by RANA for one of the authors (TKF) to attend the workshop on chytrid investigation.

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Toledo, LF, Britto, FB, Araújo OGS, Giasson, LMO, Haddad, CFB (2006). The Occurrence of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* in Brazil and the Inclusion of 17 New Cases of Infection. *Jour. Herpet.* 1(3): 185-191.

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CONFERENCE UPDATE

International Conference on *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*

By Dr. Purnima Govindarajulu

The conference 'Amphibian Declines & Chytridiomycosis: Translating Science into Urgent Action' was held November 5th – 7th, 2007 in Tempe, Arizona. The conference was hosted by Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of the National Fish Hatchery System and sponsored by 19 additional organizations including the ASG (http://www.parcplace.org/Bd_conference.html). The primary goals of the conference were to: Review current knowledge of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), assess scientific priorities and management needs, and identify actions to

limit spread and impact. The conference was attended by over 200 participants from 9 countries, representing University and research organizations, federal and state/province management agencies, industry, pet trade, zoos, NGOs and private funding foundations.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to summarizing current knowledge and identifying knowledge gaps of Bd and chytridiomycosis. Bd has been found in all continents with amphibians, although Bd surveillance is still very patchy. There is currently insufficient knowledge to decide on the origin Bd or the reasons for the emergence of chytridiomy-

cosis. However, there are many examples from Central America, Australia, Europe and parts of North America of Bd acting as an introduced and invasive pathogen causing die-offs and population extirpations. There are also some geographic areas where Bd is widespread without associated amphibian die-offs.

The methods for detecting Bd have been well established and the genome of two Bd isolates has been sequenced. However, the phylogenetic relationships among Bd isolates and the correlation between genetic differences and virulence has not been established. Similarly, although various isolates of Bd have been cultured and the life-cycle descr-

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ibed the question of sexual reproduction and the formation of resistant spores remains unanswered.

It has also been shown that Bd can persist in the environment even in the absence of amphibian hosts but what the alternate disease reservoirs are or how long it can persist in the absence of an amphibian host remains to be clarified. This is particularly troublesome for efforts to reintroduce amphibian populations to areas where they have been extirpated.

A major knowledge gap is in understanding how Bd causes mortality and the function of innate and induced immune responses in conferring resistance. Normal skin bacteria and antimicrobial skin peptides have both been suggested as potential resistance factors. Temperature and humidity have been correlated with the ability of an animal to shed Bd infections. Dr. R. Poulter discussed the promise of choramphenicol as a treatment for chytridiomycosis in captivity but further research needs to be completed before it is widely used due to potential risks to human health and the environment. Dr. Poulter also raised the hopes of the audience by hinting at another, more benign compound that is currently being tested. Current treatments including itraconazole, benzalkonium, malachite green, povidone-iodine have been associated with side-effects and treatment failures in some

cases.

The second day of the conference focused on management strategies from the international to the regional efforts. At the international level, the Aquatic Animal Commission of the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) is considering a proposal to make chytridiomycosis an internationally notifiable disease which would then require member countries to better understand the distribution of Bd. At the national level the Threat Abatement Plan developed by the Australians remains the most comprehensive Bd management strategy. Identified management needs included standardized sanitation and quarantine protocols for captive and field amphibian work, internationally standardized surveillance protocols and central reporting facilities for disease outbreaks and amphibian die-offs, response strategies for disease outbreaks and assessment of regulatory tools that could be used to stem the spread of Bd. The afternoon focused on case studies discussing the impact of Bd on recovery and reintroduction efforts for endangered populations.

The last day of the conference consisted of a series of facilitated group discussions focused on making plans and taking action on a number of priority issues. The topics covered included determining the scientific priorities for meeting Bd management information needs, developing conservation plans for infected

populations, identifying and initiating plans to stop the spread of Bd and formulating early response strategies.

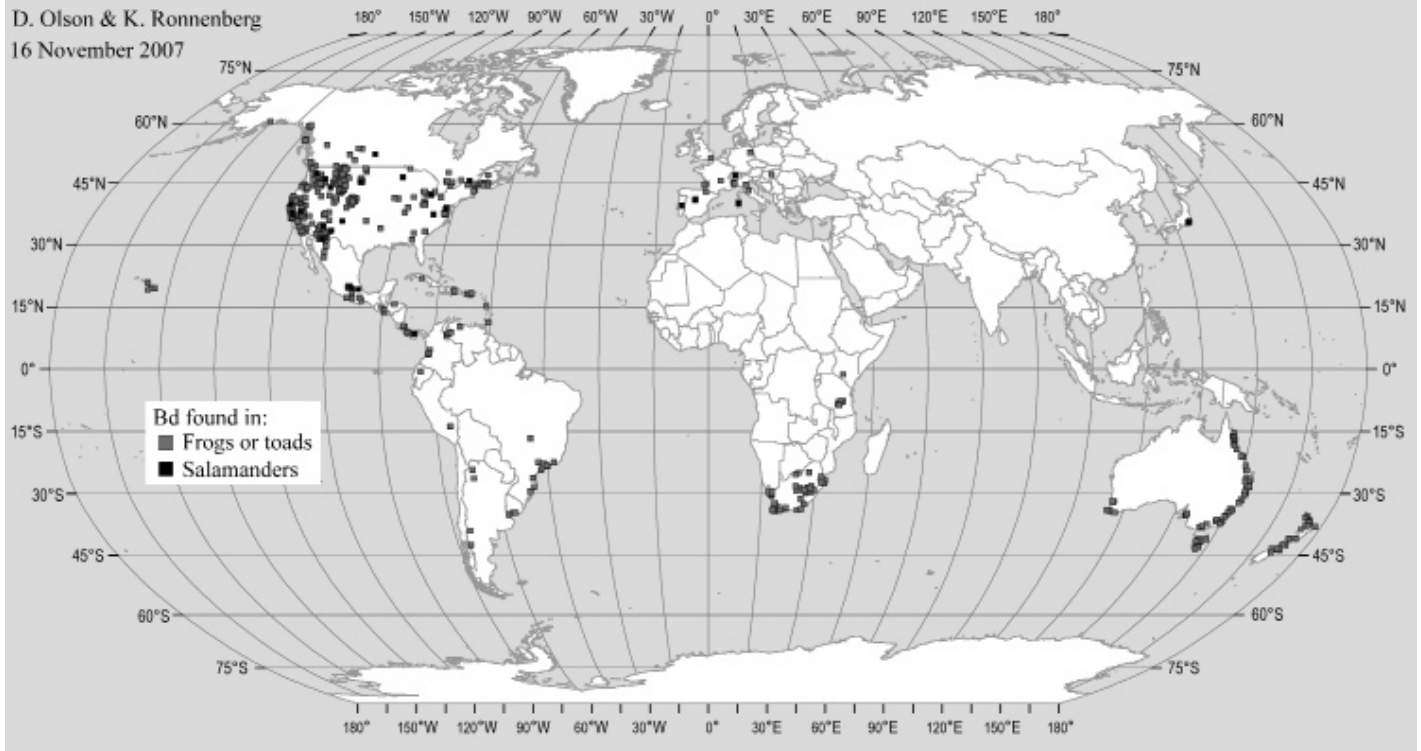
A number of products are expected to result from the conference. Many of the presentations and discussions will be summarized and published in a special issue of *Diseases in Aquatic Organisms* in 2008. The meeting program and updated abstracts will be posted on the PARC website: http://www.parcplace.org/Bd_conference.html. Other expected outputs include "Tool-Kit" documents such as hygiene and quarantine protocols, directory of Bd testing laboratories, standard surveillance protocols, Bd fact-sheets for various audiences, an outreach campaign targeting the pet industry to minimize their role in the spread of Bd and various conservation plans.

Overall, the conference provided a venue for researchers and managers to come together to discuss this emerging threat in amphibian conservation. Many people observed that the rapid progress that had been made in Bd research and management was due to the generous sharing of information and collaboration within the research community. The 2007 Amphibian Declines & Chytridiomycosis conference served to consolidate these existing collaborations and to forge many new ones.

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Global Bd Mapping Project

Deanna H. Olson and Kathryn Ronnenberg



Global map illustrating presence or absence of Bd in frogs, toads and salamanders

Our aim has been to compile as much of the existing Bd data as possible to gain a snapshot look at the status of our global knowledge and to produce a map of the global distribution of Bd. We have compiled over 2,800 records so far. Although more information is coming in to us, to date, we have found that Bd:

- sampling has occurred or is ongoing in 86 countries.

- occurs in 53.5% (38 of 71) of the countries for which we have data.

- is linked to mortalities in 18 of 38 countries having Bd.

- occurs in 233 of 425 (55%) anuran species, in 17 of 25 families sampled.

- occurs in 24 of 36 (67%) salamander species, in all 5 families sampled.

In 2008, we will be working with

Mat Fisher and David Aanensen of Imperial College, London, UK, to migrate the global Bd data to www.spatial-epidemiology.com, which is a greatly improved mapping tool that will allow us to continue this project into the future. Stay tuned for more information on that as it develops!

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

We are inviting applicants to submit proposals for amphibian research and conservation under the Critical ecosystem Partnership Fund within the follow-

ing regions: Caucasus, Mountains of southwest China, Guinean forests of West Africa and Succulent Karoo. More information about these regions and projects that are supported can

be found at www.cepf.net. Please contact me for more information, or submit proposals by January 25 2008 to Robin Moore: rdmoore@conservation.org

New *Philautus* Species Discovered from the Western Ghats, India: Potential Indicators of Habitat Fragmentation

Gururaja, K.V.

Philautus neelanethrus (Gururaja et al., 2007a) and *Philautus ochlandrae* (Gururaja et al., 2007b) have been discovered from the Western Ghats. The genus *Philautus* is known for direct development, wherein froglets emerge directly from eggs and skip the tadpole stage; a significant adaptation towards arboreal life style (Gururaja and Ramachandra, 2006).

The identity and overall taxonomic relationships of *P. neelanethrus* can be most reliably inferred based on molecular analysis. The phylogenetic and molecular-dating analysis suggests that *P. neelanethrus* is a relatively old taxon among other species of *Philautus* endemic to the Western Ghats. The relatively older origin of the taxon with its extant population in restricted, non-overlapping and non-contiguous patches in the mid-altitudinal range (500–700 m asl) characterized by ever-green/semi-evergreen/moist deciduous forest

patches in the central Western Ghats, and most importantly in *Myristica* swamps (considered to be living fossils among the vegetation types prevailing in the region) suggests its importance as an indicator of habitat fragmentation. This indicates that there had been significant habitat fragmentation in the Western Ghats, leading to the present day disjunct populations.

Philautus ochlandrae is a species named after the host plant *Ochlandra setigera* reed brakes of Kakkayam Reserve Forest. This forest harbors some of the best remaining tropical wet evergreen forest in the Western Ghats. Developing embryos along with male and female individuals were found inside the hollow tubular internodes of *Ochlandra* reed brakes. Moreover, this new species is so far known only from the type locality.

The issue of great concern is that many of the species will simply vanish even before they are formally detected and identified, as there is a tremendous pressure generated from ever increasing human population and human-induced changes in the Western Ghats.

These discoveries further



***Philautus ochlandrae* Ochlandra reed shrub frog discovered from Western Ghats**

highlight the need for conservation as well as a systematic study in the region.

References

Gururaja KV and Ramachandra TV. (2006). Direct development in White-nosed shrub frog *Philautus* cf. *leucorhinus*. *Current Science* 90(3):450–454.

Gururaja KV, Aravind NA, Sameer Ali, Ramachandra TV, Velavan TP, Krishnakumar V and Aggarwal RK. (2007a). A New Frog Species from the Central Western Ghats of India, and its phylogenetic status. *Zoological Sciences* 24:525–534.

Gururaja KV, Dinesh KP, Palot MJ, Radhakrishna C and Ramachandra TV. (2007b). A new species of *Philautus* Gistel (Amphibia: Anura: Rhacophoridae) from southern Western Ghats, India. *Zootaxa* 16:1–16.

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***Philautus neelanethrus* Blue-eyed shrub frog discovered from Western Ghats**

Notice for New Section in “Herpetological review”: Amphibian Chytridiomycosis Distribution

A new section will be included in the journal “Herpetological Review” which will be akin to the current “Geographic Distribution” section in the journal, but specific to detections (and non detections) of chytridiomycosis.

This section will offer a timely outlet for streamlined presentation of research exploring the distribution and prevalence of the amphibian chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd). Bd is an emerging infectious disease linked to mass mortality of amphibians worldwide, yet Bd detections in amphibians with no symptoms also are known in many areas.

To aid in our understanding of the scope of this issue, we encourage submission of studies on

Bd geographic distribution, including research on individual species or groups of species, wild or captive animals, native or non-native species, live animals or museum specimens, environmental samples, and findings with no Bd detections.

We ask authors to: 1) restrict the Introduction of their paper to a maximum of two paragraphs to highlight the context of their study; 2) briefly include both field and laboratory Methods; 3) present Results in a Table, although a map also may be very useful, and limited text; and 4)

have a short discussion of a maximum of three paragraphs to touch upon key findings.

Please consider including the following information in submis-

sions: coordinates and description of sampling areas (or please note if locations are extremely sensitive to reveal, and provide general area instead); positive and negative results; disposition of voucher specimens; date of specimen collection; name of collaborative laboratory or researcher conducting histological sections or! PCR analyses; and names of cooperative land owners or land management agencies. We aim to expedite the review and publication process!

Please email submissions directly to the Associate Editor of the section, Dr. Dede Olson: dedeolson@fs.fed.us.

Instructions to Authors

FROGLOG publishes a range of articles on any research, discoveries or conservation news relating to the amphibian decline phenomenon. We encourage authors describing original research to first make submissions to a refereed journal and then, if appropriate, to publish a synopsis in Froglog. Submissions should be in English, normally no more than 1000 words

and follow the style of FROGLOG Vol 83 (as should references). You may also submit images, maps, figures or tables. We encourage the submission of photographs to accompany text. Short news items and press releases are also acceptable. Please submit potential contributions to Robin Moore at the address in the box to the right.

FROGLOG is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG). Articles on any subject relevant to the understanding of amphibian conservation, research and / or assessments should be sent to: Robin Moore, Editor, Conservation International, 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22202, USA.
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