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**Title** Catalogue of Indian Herpetological Specimens in Thiruvananthapuram Natural History Museum, Kerala, India

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**Abstract** We catalogued entire, fluid-preserved, voucher specimens of native Indian amphibian and reptilian specimens in the Thiruvananthapuram Natural History Museum (TNHM), Kerala, India. We inventoried and found a total of 153 species, comprising of one caecilian, 96 anurans, 11 saurians, 44 serpents and three chelonians. There are a few recently deposited or described primary and secondary types of some rhacophorid frogs (*Ghatixalus*, *Mercurana*, *Raorchestes*) and gekkonid lizards (*Cnemaspis*), while most others are non-type specimens. The collections almost wholly come from Kerala, including both historical and recently deposited materials. A few materials are those procured by exchange, or purchased or collected from elsewhere in India (e.g. Pondicherry; Tamil Nadu). Most of the recent collections are anurans collected by two noted batrachologists Sujith V. Gopalan and Anil Zachariah and their parties. Most of the snake and a few lizard collections were century old historical material collected from Thiruvananthapuram by a pioneering naturalist H.S. Ferguson.

**Keywords** Ferguson, Gekkonidae, historical specimens, Rhacophoridae, Serpentes, type specimens

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## Introduction

Natural history museums in India have been pivotal institutions for biodiversity discovery and research. In the Indian scenario, studies on herpetofauna perhaps beat all other vertebrate group explorations in bringing out the most number of new systematic discoveries in this century (Dubois 1999; Das 2003). Yet, we have perhaps known more about Indian herpetological material in repositories outside India (Hubrecht 1882; Boulenger 1890; Bauer 1998; Gill & Froggatt 2014) than those housed in the country (Theobald 1876; Sclater 1891; Phipson 1888). Post independence, many works have engaged with and enriched such natural history collection repositories. The most important of the country's repositories — the Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai and the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata have had their herpetological type collections catalogued (Das & Chaturvedi 1998; Das et al. 1998; Chanda et al. 2000; Das & Gayen 2004). Later, studies focussing on smaller, regional museums and their overall herpetological holdings, including non-types, were conducted. Such stock-takings were performed at the Govt. Museum Chennai (Ganesh & Asokan 2010), the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (Ganesh et al. 2020; Chandramouli et al. 2021), St. Joseph's College Kozhikode (Zacharias & Bose 2020), Kerala Agricultural University Natural History Museum (Nameer et al. 2021) and the Chennai Snake Park Museum (Ganesh 2021).

One such historical, regional museum in the country is the Thiruvananthapuram Natural History Museum in Kerala (TNHM). It was started during 1852–55 by the joint efforts of many people, notably J. Allen Brown, ex. Director of Thiruvananthapuram Observatory, Gen. Cullen, a British Resident and the Travancore King Utharam Thirunal. The museum was thrown open to the public in 1857, as was a zoo annexed to it in 1859. Soon, other members such as Col. Heber Drury, Col. Ketchen, Sir William Flower, and the Scottish zoologist H.S. Ferguson, joined and contributed greatly to its honing. By 1880, a new building designed by Robert Chisholm, architect to the Governor of Madras, was constructed and the museum was shifted there, where it lies now (Anon. 1899). Recently, scientists who studied new species of amphibians and reptiles have deposited their new taxa's primary and secondary type specimens in TNHM (also see Sabaj 2020). These include studies on new bush frogs of the genus *Raorchestes* (Abraham et al. 2014), tree frogs of the genera *Mercurana*, *Ghatixalus* (Abraham et al. 2013; Zachariah et al. 2016), night frogs of the genus *Nyctibatrachus* (Abraham et al. 2022) and day geckoes of the genus *Cnemaspis* (Cyriac et al. 2014), making it a notable museum. Against this backdrop, we furnish the catalogue of herpetological holdings of the Thiruvananthapuram Natural History Museum.

## Material and Methods

We here enlisted all fluid-preserved (both spirit and formalin), entire, herpetological voucher specimens representing native Indian species. We meticulously gleaned and furnished all hand-written jar label information alongside each specimen, to the best extent possible. Each entry gave the following basic information: species name, specimen registration number, number of specimens accessioned under that number in the jar, locality from where it was collected (wherever known or deducible), collector name(s), and any other important scientific remarks of interest.

Taxonomic identities of the non-type specimens were re-checked with their collectors and their claimed identities in case of recent ones, and as mentioned in jar labels in case of historical ones. We independently re-checked the same while consulting standard reference books (Daniel 2002; Das 2002; Whitaker & Captain 2004; Daniels 2005; Gururaja 2012; Ganesh 2015), updated with latest compilations on amphibians (Dinesh et al. 2024) and reptiles (Mohapatra et al. 2024).

The type specimens' identities were ascertained by tallying with the respective original description papers (Abraham et al. 2013, 2014; Cyriac et al. 2014; Zachariah et al. 2016). Most of the newly collected material, including the display collection and the reserve collection had jar label names in conformity with what is now in vogue and are hence not repeated here, except where sufficiently different. Names of those historical specimens that had jar labels furnishing currently-obsolete names were given here.

After comparing what was written in their jar labels, we updated the species names of amphibians following Frost (2024), and reptiles following Uetz et al. (2024), though not necessarily following their taxonomies. Museum acronym TNHM followed Sabaj (2020); collection code H – denotes herpetofauna. In some cases, for denoting multiple specimens accessioned together under a number,

alphabets were used to discern individual specimens in that lot. Collector abbreviations: AZ: Anil Zachariah, HSF: Harold Stuart Ferguson (1851–1921), SVG: Sujith V. Gopalan, VPC: Vivek Phillip Cyriac, UKP: Umesh K Pavukandy.

### Species Catalogue

#### Amphibia

##### Anura

##### Bufonidae

1. *Blairia ornata* (Günther, 1876)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18.128 Coll. AZ

2. *Duttaphrynus beddomii* (Günther, 1876)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18.125 Coll. AZ

3. *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Schneider, 1799)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18.123 Coll. AZ

4. *Duttaphrynus parietalis* (Boulenger, 1882)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18.124 Coll. AZ

5. *Duttaphrynus scaber* (Schneider, 1799)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/87 Coll. AZ

6. *Pedostibes tuberculosus* (Günther, 1876)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/95, TNHM(H)12.6.18.117 Coll. AZ

##### Dicroglossidae

7. *Phrynoderma hexadactylum* (Lesson, 1834)

Material: TNHM(H) 5949.125 Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 5951.149 Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Coll. SVG

8. *Phrynoderma karaavali* (Priti, Naik, Seshadri, Singal, Vidisha, Ravikanth, and Gururaja, 2016)

Material: TNHM(H) 5910.151; TNHM(H) 5919; TNHM(H) 5921.150; TNHM(H) 5910.151; TNHM(H) 5950.123, TNHM(H) 5951.149; TNHM(H) 6215.154; TNHM(H) 6216.156; TNHM(H) 6217.153; TNHM(H) 6218.157; TNHM(H) 5922.160; TNHM(H) 5795.127 Nenmara, Palakkad, Coll. SVG

9. *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (Daudin, 1802)

Material: TNHM(H) 118 Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF; TNHM(H) 5226.155 Kannur, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 5794.152 Jagathy, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 5795 Nenmara, Palakkad, Coll. SVG

10. *Minervarya agricola* (Jerdon, 1853)

Material: TNHM(H) 5717.112 Punchakari, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 5726.145 Punchakari, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG

11. *Minervarya nilagirica* (Jerdon, 1853)

Material: TNHM(H) 5755.141, TNHM(H) 5755.101, TNHM(H) 5775.161 Devikulam, Harrison Estate, Munnar, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H)12.6.18.111 Coll. AZ

12. *Minervarya sahyadris* Dubois, Ohler & Biju, 2001

Material: TNHM(H)12.6.18.110 Coll. AZ

**Micrixalidae**

13. *Micrixalus adonis* Biju, Garg, Gururaja, Shouche & Walujkar, 2014

Material: TNHM(H) 5790.144 Gavi, Pathanamthitta, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 5791.121 Munnar, Idukki, Coll. SVG

14. *Micrixalus frigidus* Biju, Garg, Gururaja, Shouche & Walujkar, 2014

Material: TNHM(H) MIC105.108 Eravikulam, Munnar, Coll. SVG

15. *Micrixalus fuscus* (Boulenger, 1882)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/93 Coll. AZ

16. *Micrixalus saxicola* (Jerdon, 1853)

Material: TNHM(H) MC 101.165 Kakadampoyil, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) MC 102.116 Kakadampoyil, Coll. SVG

**Microhylidae**

17. *Melanobatrachus indicus* Beddome, 1878

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18.114 Coll. AZ

18. *Microhyla rubra* (Jerdon, 1853)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/97 a, b; TNHM(H) 12.6.18.116 Coll. AZ

19. *Mysticellus franki* Garg & Biju, 2019

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/91 Pulpally, Coll. AZ, labeled as *Micryletta aishani*

20. *Uperodon systoma* (Schneider, 1799)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18.109 Coll. AZ

21. *Uperodon taprobanicus* (Parker, 1934)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/92 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 5667.107 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 105 Kozhikode, Coll. SVG

22. *Uperodon triangularis* (Günther, 1876)

Material: TNHM(H) 5677.110 Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) UD105.163, 105.139 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG

23. *Uperodon variegatus* (Stoliczka, 1872)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/86 Palakkad, Coll. AZ

**Nasikabatrachidae**

24. *Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis* Biju & Bossuyt, 2003

Material: TNHM(H) 12 Kollam; TNHM(H) 12.6.18.115 Coll. AZ

**Nyctibatrachidae**

25. *Nyctibatrachus aliciae* Inger, Shaffer, Koshy, and Bakde, 1984

Material: TNHM(H) 5582.142 Shendurney, Kollam, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18.118 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) NY3, TNHM(H) NY5 Ponmudi, Thiruvananthapuram Coll. RKA

26. *Nyctibatrachus major* (Boulenger, 1882)

Material: TNHM(H) NY103.140, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) NY104.158 Shendurney Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18.121 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 5686.147 Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) NY104 Shendurney Coll. SVG

27. *Nyctibatrachus periyar* Biju, Van Bocxlaer, Mahony, Dinesh, Radhakrishnan, Zachariah, Giri & Bossuyt, 2011

Material: TNHM(H) 5788 Gavi, Pathanamthitta, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) NY6 Uppukunnu, Idukki Coll. RKA

28. *Nyctibatrachus poocha* Biju, Van Bocxlaer, Mahony, Dinesh, Radhakrishnan, Zachariah, Giri & Bossuyt, 2011

Material: TNHM(H) 5811.124 Devikulam, Idukki, Coll. SVG

29. *Nyctibatrachus vasanthi* Ravichandran, 1997

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18.120 Coll. AZ

30. *Nyctibatrachus vrijeuni* Biju, Van Bocxlaer, Mahony, Dinesh, Radhakrishnan, Zachariah, Giri & Bossuyt, 2011

Material: TNHM(H) 5120.146 Aaralam Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18.119 Coll. AZ

### Ranidae

31. *Hylarana aurantiaca* (Boulenger, 1904)

Material: TNHM(H) 5716.115 Punchakari, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG

32. *Hylarana magna* Biju, Garg, Mahony, Wijayathilaka, Senevirathne, and Meegaskumbura, 2014

Material: TNHM(H) 5793.126 Kochupamba, Kottayam, Coll. SVG

33. *Hylarana sreeni* Biju, Garg, Mahony, Wijayathilaka, Senevirathne, and Meegaskumbura, 2014

Material: TNHM(H) INS 102 Coll. SVG

### Ranixalidae

34. *Indirana brachytarsus* (Günther, 1876)

Material: TNHM(H) 1718.162 Kallandichal, Vallakadavu, Periyar, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) IND 974.111 Ponnudi, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG

35. *Indirana paramakri* Garg & Biju, 2016

Material: TNHM(H) IN108.113 Anakampoyil, Kozhikode, Coll. SVG

36. *Indirana yadera* Dahanukar, Modak, Krutha, Nameer, Padhye, and Molur, 2016

Material: TNHM(H) IND1721.128 Kochupamba, Idukki, Coll. SVG

### Rhacophoridae

37. *Beddomixalus bijui* (Zachariah, Dinesh, Radhakrishnan, Kunhikrishnan, Palot, and Vishnudas, 2011)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/57 Kadalar, Idukki, Coll. AZ

38. *Ghatixalus asterops* Biju, Roelants, and Bossuyt, 2008

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/68 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 13.7.06/96 Coll. AZ

39. *Ghatixalus magnus* Abraham, Mathew, Cyriac, Zachariah, Raju, and Zachariah, 2015

Material: TNHM(H) 15.5.20/80 (Holotype) Kadalar, Idukki, Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 14.8.01/81 (Paratype) Kadalar, Idukki, Coll. RA

40. *Ghatixalus variabilis* (Jerdon, 1853)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/67a,b Coll. AZ

41. *Mercurana myristicapalustris* Abraham, Pyron, Ansil, Zachariah, and Zachariah, 2013



Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/69 (Holotype) Arippa, Kulathupuzha, Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/70, 74 Arippa, Kulathupuzha, Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) RA115.109 Vazhachal, Thrissur, Coll. SVG

42. *Polypedates maculatus* (Gray, 1830)

Material: TNHM(H) 5711.104 Edakkad, Kozhikode, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 6222.143 Pullode, Palakkad Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/60 Coll. AZ

43. *Polypedates pseudocruciger* Das & Ravichandran, 1998

Material: TNHM(H) 5693.138 Kallarkutty, Idukki, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 5694.136 Kallarkutty, Idukki, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/58/59 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 12.6.18.112 Coll. AZ

44. *Pseudophilautus amboli* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/03 Coll. AZ

45. *Pseudophilautus kani* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/01 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) RA123.117 Ponmudi, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA124 Ponmudi, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/02 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 12.6.18.113 Coll. AZ

46. *Pseudophilautus wynaadensis* (Jerdon, 1853)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/88 Kalyetta, Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) RA109.126 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA110.127 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA111.128 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA112.129 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) PA 120 Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA116.131 Kozhimala, Idukki, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA117.119 Kozhimala, Idukki, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA118.132 Kozhimala, Idukki, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA121.133 Kozhimala, Idukki, Coll. SVG

47. *Raorchestes anili* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) PHY 227.164 Kozhimala, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/04/05 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/24 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) RA113.130 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18.107 Coll. AZ

48. *Raorchestes agasthyaensis* Zachariah, Dinesh, Kunhikrishnan, Das, Raju, Radhakrishnan, Palot, and Kalesh, 2011

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/11 Coll. AZ

49. *Raorchestes akroparallagi* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/13 Coll. AZ

50. *Raorchestes archeos* Vijayakumar, Dinesh, Prabhu & Shanker, 2014

51. Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/36 Coll. AZ

52. *Raorchestes beddomii* (Günther, 1876)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/94 a, b Munnar, Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) RA108.125 Munnar, Idukki, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/22 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) RA252.120 Pandipath, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG

53. *Raorchestes bobingeri* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/14 Coll. AZ

54. *Raorchestes bombayensis* (Annandale, 1919)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/42 Coll. AZ

55. *Raorchestes chalazodes* (Günther, 1876)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/09 Coll. AZ
56. *Raorchestes charius* (Rao, 1937)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/37/38 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 13.7.06/85 Chembra Coll. AZ;  
TNHM(H)12.6.18.106 Coll. AZ
57. *Raorchestes chlorosomma* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/27 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H)12.6.18.103 Coll. AZ
58. *Raorchestes chotta* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/30 Coll. AZ
59. *Raorchestes chromasynchysi* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/34/35 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H)12.6.18.127 Coll. AZ
60. *Raorchestes coonoorensis* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/40 Coll. AZ
61. *Raorchestes crustai* Zachariah, Dinesh, Kunhikrishnan, Das, Raju, Radhakrishnan, Palot & Kalesh, 2011  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/21 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H)12.6.18.101 Coll. AZ
62. *Raorchestes drutaahu* Garg, Suyesh, Das, Bee & Biju, 2021  
Material: TNHM(H) PHY 243.122 Periyar, Pacchakanam, Coll. SVG
63. *Raorchestes dubois* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2006)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/23 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 5668.105 Devikulam, Idukki, Coll. SVG;  
TNHM(H)12.6.18.104 Coll. AZ
64. *Raorchestes flaviocularis* Vijayakumar, Dinesh, Prabhu & Shanker, 2014  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/44, 45 Coll. AZ
65. *Raorchestes flaviventris* (Boulenger, 1882)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/47a,b Kadalar, Idukki, Coll. AZ
66. *Raorchestes glandulosus* (Jerdon, 1853)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/16 Coll. AZ
67. *Raorchestes graminirupes* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2005)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/17/18 Coll. AZ
68. *Raorchestes griet* (Bossuyt, 2002)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/39 Coll. AZ
69. *Raorchestes jayarami* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/15 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H)12.6.18.108 Coll. AZ
70. *Raorchestes johnceei* Zachariah, Dinesh, Kunhikrishnan, Das, Raju, Radhakrishnan, Palot & Kalesh, 2011  
Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/50 Coll. AZ
71. *Raorchestes kadalarensis* Zachariah, Dinesh, Kunhikrishnan, Das, Raju, Radhakrishnan, Palot & Kalesh, 2011



Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/12 Coll. AZ

72.*Raorchestes kaikatti* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/07 Coll. AZ

73.*Raorchestes kakachi* Seshadri, Gururaja & Aravind, 2012

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/08 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H)12.6.18.105 Coll. AZ

74.*Raorchestes lechia* Zachariah, Cyriac, Chandramohan, Ansil, Mathew, Raju & Abraham, 2016

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/55 (Holotype) Sispara, Silent Valley, Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/56 (Paratype) Sispara, Silent Valley, Coll. AZ

75.*Raorchestes luteolus* (Kuramoto & Joshy, 2003)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/29 Coll. AZ

76.*Raorchestes manohari* Zachariah, Dinesh, Kunhikrishnan, Das, Raju, Radhakrishnan, Palot & Kalesh, 2011

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/48 Coll. AZ

77.*Raorchestes marki* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) RA122.102 Kozhimala, Idukki, Coll. SVG

78.*Raorchestes munnarensis* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/25 Coll. AZ

79.*Raorchestes nerostagana* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2005)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/19/20 Coll. AZ

80.*Raorchestes ochlandrae* (Gururaja, Dinesh, Palot, Radhakrishnan, and Ramachandra, 2007)

Material: TNHM(H) RA101.123 Ponnudi, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA102.124 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA103.118 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) RA241.135 Vazhachal, Thrissur, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/10 Coll. AZ

81.*Raorchestes ponmudi* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2005)

Material: TNHM(H) RA104.114 Nedumkandam, Idukki, Coll. SVG

82.*Raorchestes ravii* Zachariah, Dinesh, Kunhikrishnan, Das, Raju, Radhakrishnan, Palot & Kalesh, 2011

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/41 Coll. AZ

83.*Raorchestes resplendens* Biju, Shouche, Dubois, Dutta & Bossuyt, 2010

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/26 Coll. AZ

84.*Raorchestes signatus* (Boulenger, 1882)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/31 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 13.7.06/89 Coll. AZ

85.*Raorchestes silentvalley* Zachariah, Cyriac, Chandramohan, Ansil, Mathew, Raju & Abraham, 2016

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/54 (Paratype) Sispara, Silent Valley, Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/53 (Holotype) Sispara, Silent Valley, Coll. AZ

86.*Raorchestes sushili* (Biju & Bossuyt, 2009)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/06 Coll. AZ

87.*Raorchestes tinniens* (Jerdon, 1853)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/32/33 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H)12.6.18.102 Coll. AZ

88. *Raorchestes travancoricus* (Boulenger, 1891)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/28 Coll. AZ

89. *Raorchestes tuberochumerus* (Kuramoto & Joshy, 2003)

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/43 Coll. AZ

90. *Raorchestes uthamani* Zachariah, Dinesh, Kunhikrishnan, Das, Raju, Radhakrishnan, Palot & Kalesh, 2011

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/49 Coll. AZ

91. *Tamixalus calcadensis* (Ahl, 1927)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/90 Coll. AZ; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/66 Coll. AZ

92. *Rhacophorus lateralis* Boulenger, 1883

Material: TNHM(H) 5674.137 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 5675.106 Pookode, Wayanad, Coll. SVG; TNHM(H) 12.6.18/64/65 Coll. AZ

93. *Rhacophorus malabaricus* Jerdon, 1870

Material: TNHM(H) 119, Kallar, Coll. HSF; 12.6.18/61 Coll. AZ

94. *Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus* Vasudevan & Dutta, 2000

Material: TNHM(H) 12.6.18/63 Coll. AZ

## **Gymnophiona**

### **Ichthyophiidae**

95. *Uraeotyphlus bombayensis* (Taylor, 1960)

Material: TNHM(H) 101, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. unknown

## **Reptilia**

### **Squamata**

#### **Gekkonidae**

96. *Cnemaspis kottiyorensis* Cyriac & Umesh, 2014

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/80 (Holotype) Perumalmudi, Kottiyoor, Coll. VPC; TNHM(H) 13.7.06/81 (Paratype) Perumalmudi, Kottiyoor, Coll. VPC; TNHM(H) 13.7.06/82 (Paratype) Chandanathodu, Periya, Coll. VPC, UPK; TNHM(H) 13.7.06/83 (Paratype) Makkimala, Wayanad, Coll. VPC

97. *Cnemaspis wynadensis* (Beddome, 1870)

Material: TNHM(H) 13.7.06/84 Sugandhagiri, Wayanad, Coll. VPC

#### **Agamidae**

98. *Calotes calotes* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Material: TNHM(H) 115, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in Sept. 1888, labeled "*Calotes ophiomachus*"

99. *Calotes grandisquamis* Günther, 1875

Material: TNHM(H) 114, Ponmudi, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in Jan. 1891

100. *Calotes nemoricola* Jerdon, 1853

Material: TNHM(H) 112, Kallar, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in Sept. 1891

101. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin, 1803)

Material: TNHM(H) 113 (2 ex.), Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF

102. *Salea anamallayana* (Beddome, 1878)

Material: TNHM(H) 107 (2 ex.) High Range, Coll. HW Turner in May 1891

103. *Psammophilus cf. dorsalis* (Gray, 1831)

Material: TNHM(H) 111 (2 ex.) Kallar, Coll. HSF

#### **Chamaeleonidae**

104. *Chamaeleo zeylanicus* Laurenti, 1768

Material: TNHM(H) 108, 109, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in Sept. 1891, 8/1/1956 in zoo,

#### **Scincidae**

105. *Sphenomorphus dussumieri* (Duméril & Bibron, 1839)

Material: TNHM(H) 110 (2 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Lygosoma dussumieri*”

#### **Varanidae**

106. *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802)

Material: TNHM(H) 116, 117, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF; from Samagooling Coll. Capt. Butler

#### **Typhlopidae**

107. *Indotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803)

Material: TNHM(H) 157, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Typhlops braminus*”

108. *Grypotyphlops acutus* (Duméril & Bibron, 1844)

Material: TNHM(H) 168, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Typhlops acutus*”

#### **Uropeltidae**

109. *Uropeltis cf. brevis* (Günther, 1862)

Material: TNHM(H) 155, Ponnudi, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Silybura brevis*”

110. *Uropeltis myhendrae* (Beddome, 1886)

Material: TNHM(H) 159, Kallar, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Silybura myhendrae*”

111. *Uropeltis cf. dupeni* (Beddome 1878)

Material: TNHM(H) 154, High Range, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Silybura ocellata*”

#### **Erycidae**

112. *Eryx conicus* (Schneider, 1801)

Material: TNHM(H) 162, 163 Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Gongylophis conicus*”

113. *Eryx johnii* (Russell, 1801)

Material: TNHM(H) 161, Cape Comerin

114. *Eryx whitakeri* Das, 1991

Material: TNHM(H) 164, locality not given

#### **Pythonidae**

115. *Python molurus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Material: TNHM(H) 165, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF

#### **Acrochordidae**

116. *Acrochordus granulatus* (Schneider, 1799)

Material: TNHM(H) 134 Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Chersydrus granulatus*”

#### **Pareidae**

117. *Xylophis captaini* Gower & Winkler, 2007

Material: TNHM(H) 158 (2 ex.), Kallar, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Xylophis stenorhynchus*”

### Viperidae

118. *Daboia russelii* (Shaw & Nodder, 1797)

Material: TNHM(H) 121, 122, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in 1902 from Bornianlli garden, in 1900 from Poojapura, labeled “*Vipera russelli*”

119. *Hypnale hypnale* (Merrem, 1820)

Material: TNHM(H) 123, Kallar hills, Coll. N.G. Pillai from Black Rock Estate on 9/6/1953, labeled “*Ancistrodon hypnale*”

### Homalopsidae

120. *Dieurostus dussumierii* (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)

Material: TNHM(H) 149, Kulathupuzha, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Hypsirhina* sp.”

### Elapidae

121. *Bungarus caeruleus* (Schneider, 1801)

Material: TNHM(H) (13 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in July 1891; Thiruvananthapuram Zoo Kowdiar, Coll. NG Pillai on 20/10/1942, 26/5/1952, 27/8/1952, 8/1/1956; Peermad Coll. W.W. Edwards in Nov. 1892

122. *Bungarus fasciatus* (Schneider, 1801)

Material: TNHM(H) 120, by exchange

123. *Naja naja* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Material: TNHM(H) 123, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF

124. *Hydrophis curtus* (Shaw, 1802)

Material: TNHM(H) 127, 128, 129, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in June-Sept. 1893; from Anjengo Coll. Shankar Narayana Pillai in Oct. 1908, labeled “*Enhydris curtus*”

125. *Hydrophis cyanocinctus* Daudin, 1803

Material: TNHM(H) 131, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Hydrophis torquatus*”

126. *Hydrophis fasciatus* (Schneider, 1799)

Material: TNHM(H) 132, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF

127. *Hydrophis platurus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

Material: TNHM(H) 125, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Pelamis platurus*”

128. *Hydrophis schistosus* Daudin, 1803

Material: TNHM(H) 126, 170 Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Enhydrina valakadyen*”

129. *Hydrophis spiralis* (Shaw, 1802)

Material: TNHM(H) 135, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF

130. *Hydrophis stokesii* (Gray, 1846)

Material: TNHM(H) 133, purchased, “Trev.” [Thiruvananthapuram], on 4/11/1894, labeled “*Distira stokesii*”

131. *Hydrophis viperinus* (Schmidt, 1852)

Material: TNHM(H) 130, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Thalassophina viperina*”

### Natricidae

132. *Amphiesma monticola* (Jerdon, 1853)  
Material: TNHM(H) 148, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Tropidonotus monticolus*”

133. *Fowlea* cf. *piscator* (Schneider, 1799)  
Material: TNHM(H) 151, 171, 3 specimens Thiruvananthapuram, labeled “*Tropidonotus piscator*”

134. *Atretium schistosum* (Daudin, 1803)  
Material: TNHM(H) 168, 152, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Helicops schistosus*”

135. *Sahyadriophis beddomii* (Günther, 1864)  
Material: TNHM(H) (2 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Tropidonotus beddomii*”

#### Colubridae

136. *Ahaetulla isabellina* (Wall, 1910)  
Material: TNHM(H) 139, 169, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. on 18/1/1952, labeled “*Dryophis dispar*”

137. *Ahaetulla oxyrhynca* (Bell, 1825)  
Material: TNHM(H) 136, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Dryophis mycterizans*”

138. *Ahaetulla sahyadrensis* Mallik, Srikanthan, Pal, D’souza, Shanker & Ganesh, 2020  
Material: TNHM(H) 137, 138, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in 1902; from Vellany on 7/4/1942, labeled “*Dryophis pulverulentus*”

139. *Boiga* cf. *nuchalis* (Günther, 1875)  
Material: TNHM(H) 144, (5 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Dipsas ceylonensis*”

140. *Boiga trigonata* (Schneider, 1802)  
Material: TNHM(H) (3 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF in June 1892, 1900, labeled “*Dipsas trigonata*”

141. *Boiga forsteni* (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)  
Material: TNHM(H) 143, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Dipsas forstennii*”

142. *Coelognathus helena monticollaris* (Schulz, 1992)  
Material: TNHM(H) 140, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Coluber helena*”

143. *Chrysopelea ornata* (Shaw, 1802)  
Material: TNHM(H) 141, 142, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF

144. *Dendrelaphis tristis* (Daudin, 1803)  
Material: TNHM(H) 147, (5 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Dendrophis pictus*”

145. *Dendrelaphis girii* Vogel & Van Rooijen, 2011  
Material: TNHM(H) 156, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Dendrophis bifrenalis*”

146. *Oligodon affinis* Günther, 1862  
Material: TNHM(H) 145, Ponnudi, Coll. HSF

147. *Oligodon taeniolatus* (Jerdon, 1853)  
Material: TNHM(H) 167, 146, (3 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF, labeled “*Oligodon subgriseus*”

148. *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
Material: TNHM(H) 159 Jagathy, Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. SVG

149. *Lycodon travancoricus* (Beddome, 1871)

Material: TNHM(H) 150 (3 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Nathancode, Coll. on 30/9/1944, 11/10/1953

150. *Lycodon fasciolatus* (Shaw, 1802)

Material: TNHM(H) 153 (6 ex.) Thiruvananthapuram, Vellayambalam, Puthenchenthal, Vazhuthacaud, Coll. T.P. Pillai, C.G. Nair, on 31/7/1943, 25/2/1944, 22/4/1944, labeled "*Lycodon aulicus*".

### **Chelonia**

#### **Cheloniidae**

151. *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Eschscholtz, 1829)

Material: TNHM(H) 105 a,b,c Thiruvananthapuram, Coll. HSF

#### **Trionychidae**

152. *Pelochelys cantori* Gray, 1864

Material: TNHM(H) 104, Neyyar, Coll. HSF

#### **Testudinidae**

153. *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff, 1795)

Material: TNHM(H) 106, Kanyakumari, labeled "*Testudo elegans*"

### **Discussion**

In all, a total of 153 species of herpetofauna, with one caecilian, 96 anurans, 11 saurians, 44 serpents and three chelonian species were documented by us here at the TNHM. Understandably, most of the material lodged here are non-type specimens. It is indeed noteworthy that there were primary and secondary types of some recently described rhacophorid frogs (*Ghatixalus*, *Mercurana*, *Raorchestes*) and gekkonid lizards (*Cnemaspis*).

Most of the specimens' provenances were Kerala, be it historical or recent materials. However, some specimens were obtained by exchange, or purchased or collected from the nearby Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu. These include specimens that were recently collected/deposited by contemporary experts (alphabetically): Anil Zachariah, Sujith V. Gopalan, Umesh K. Pavukandy, Vivek P. Cyriac and their allies.

The bulk of the snake specimens and a few lizards were those collected a century ago, largely from Thiruvananthapuram by the pioneering naturalist H.S. Ferguson. It is noteworthy that a few publications pertaining to the collections exist, in case of the recent material (Abraham et al. 2013, 2015, 2022; Cyriac & Umesh 2014; Zachariah et al. 2016).

In case of the historical specimens, the mud snake *Dieurostus dussumierii* was recently published (deSouza et al. 2024), while the sea snake *Hydrophis stokesii* is under publication processing (Ganesh, submitted). We hope that this catalogue will help fill in the lacuna regarding herpetological holdings in under-studied museums in our country and encourage future studies there.

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