

Amphibian Hands on training Workshop on field techniques and taxonomy

Sanjay Molur¹ and B.A. Daniel²

A five-day hands on workshop on amphibian field techniques and taxonomy was organized from 24-28th June 2002 at the College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Kerala. This workshop is the joint venture of The Declining Amphibian Population Task Force - South Asia (DAPTF-SA), Conservation International/Global Amphibian Specialist Group CI/GASG, Friends of Rare Amphibians of the Western Ghats (FRAWG), Conservation Breeding Specialist Group - India (CBSG-I), Conservation Breeding Specialist Group-South Asia (CBSG-SA), Wildlife Information and Liaison Development (WILD) Society and Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO). A total of 56 biologists from 24 institutes and organizations from all over India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka took part in the workshop.



Workshop Participants

The objective of this second workshop for Amphibians was to train field biologists in standard methods of amphibians field studies with emphasis on field identification, taxonomy, pathology and field techniques. Dr. Annemarie Ohler, Herpetologist, Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, Dr. Anslam de Silva, Herpetologist, CBSG, Sri Lanka, Dr. S.K. Dutta, Department of Zoology, Utkal University, Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun were the resource persons.

The training workshop covered a variety of conservation biology tools:

- An overview of South Asian amphibian status with special reference to Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh
- Basic amphibian characteristics for identification
- Field study techniques: Canopy, Littoral forest, and various other ecosystems
- Techniques in collection, fixing and preservation of amphibian
- Group exercises on filling character sheets, Morphometrics, developing methods for different situations
- Classification, Taxonomy, nomenclature, ethics of *Philautus*, Ranids etc.

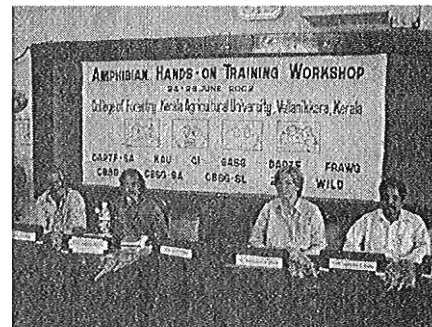


Dr. Annemarie Ohler

The agenda of the workshop consisted of lectures during day time which included the aspects of the above said topics and field work in the evenings and night. Dr. Annemarie Ohler, Herpetologist, Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle, France was the main resource person. Dr. Annemarie covered a wide variety of topics on Taxonomy, Classification, nomenclature and museum study methods. Other resource persons Dr. S.K. Dutta, Dr. Anslam de Silva and Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan handled field study methods.



Dr. P.O. Nameer, using GPS in the field with his student Radhakrishnan



Inaugural function

¹ Deputy Director, ZOO & Founder/Secretary, WILD,
² Scientist, Zoo Outreach Organisation

Amphibian Hands-on Training Workshop Agenda

24th June 2002

Welcome, Inaugural - Vice chancellor Dr. Peter and Dean Dr. Luckins C. Babu, P.O. Nameer, S. Molur
Introduction to Sri Lankan Amphibian status - Anslém de Silva
Forest Canopy and other techniques - S.K. Dutta
An overview of amphibians in India - S.K. Dutta
Basic characteristics for identification, sex determination - Annemarie Ohler
Field visit - Ponds of the Vellankara campus, KAU

25th June 2002

Experiences on Canopy studies, leaf litter plot studies - Anslém de Silva
Demonstration of fixing amphibians and basic characteristics (Continued) - Annemarie Ohler
Group exercise on filling character sheets
Field trip to Vellayanimala, Pattikad Range (287m)

26th June 2002

Collection, research, taxonomy, conservation ethics, identification, expertise - S.K. Dutta
Rapid classification, subfamily classification - Annemarie Ohler
Ranids and tadpole fixing - Annemarie Ohler
Demonstration on Morphometrics - Annemarie Ohler
Group exercise on Morphometrics
Field trip to Kole wetland

27th June 2002

Tadpole fixing - Annemarie Ohler
Tadpole information studies, research, priorities in India - S.K. Dutta
Mortality of amphibians on roads - S.P. Vijayakumar
Herpetological studies in Amba valley - Vivek Gour-Broome
Research methodology-Ph.D. studies - Deepthi Wickramasinghe
Sampling methodology - Karthik Shankar
Tadpole morphometrics, research, muscle architecture, bone characters, developmental biology, Mark-release and capture techniques
Group exercise on developing methods for different situations
Field visit to Kuthiran Forest Education Centre

28th June 2002

Tadpole morphometrics, staining studies, research priorities - S.K. Dutta
Phyllautus group: Taxonomy, nomenclature, rules, ethics, basic laws - Annemarie Ohler
Commitments by all the participants
Valedictory and closing



Dr. Annemarie Ohler explaining the group before the field work at Vellayanimala, Pattikad range

PARTICIPANTS LIST 24-28th June 2002, Kerala Agricultural University

Annemarie Ohler, Museum Nat. D'Histoire Naturelle, France
S.M. Ibney Alam, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Abyerami Balasubramaniam, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
Jimmy Borah, Jorhat, Assam
Srinivasulu, C, University College of Science, Hyderabad
Anslém de Silva, Herpetologist, CBSG, Sri Lanka
B.A. Daniel, Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore
Deepthi Devika W, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Md. Kamrul Hasan Dolon, Jahangirnagar Univ. Bangladesh
S.K. Dutta Utkal University, Bhubaneswar
Varad B. Giri, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai
Srinivas Gopalakrishnan, AVC College, Mannampandal
Vivek Ashok Gour-Broome, Kalpavriksh, Pune
Md. Kamrul Hasan, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh
Jackin Jayaram, College of Vet. & Ani. Sci., Mannuthy
Jalaludeen, Mohammed, A.M., Thrissur 5 India
Kanishka Dimithra Ukuwela, Kandy, Sri Lanka
Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
Shreyas Krishnan, Andaman & Nicobar Environmental Team
Mymoon Mohammed Animon, College of Forestry, KAU
Debanik Mukherjee, Coimbatore 641108 India
Nicole - Andree Viloteau, Herpetology, Paris, France
V.A. Prasanna Samarawickrama, IUCN Sri Lanka
D.M. Nayana Pradeep Kumar, Sri Lanka
Vinoj Matthew Philip, Biologist, Chennai
V.A.M. Pradeep Kumara Samarawickrama, Sri Lanka
Nimal Dharmapriya Rathnayake, ARROS, Sri Lanka
Sanjay Molur, WILD, Coimbatore
N.R. Surya Addoor, Mangalore
A.O. Sunny, Ranger, Palakkad Dt. Via Pollachi
S.R.M. S. Samaradiwakara, Dept. of Nat. Museum, SL
Saju K. Abraham, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi
Sivakumar S, Research Fellow, BNHS, Aduthurai
Shantha Karunaratne, Researcher ARROS, Sri Lanka
S.P. Vijayakumar, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Chennai
Sanjay Singha Thakur, Pune
Weerasinghe, A. Nadeera, Sri Lanka
Wickramasinghe, Laxman Jayantha, IUCN Sri Lanka
Ranjith S. Weerawardhena, Sri Lanka
Vipin, S.L. Kerala Agricultural University
P.O. Nameer, Kerala Agricultural University
Marry, Sedric Pankra, Kerala Agricultural University
Hari, R., Kerala Agricultural University
Lisha Davis Arimboor, Kerala Agricultural University
Krishnambika, E.N, Kerala Agricultural University
Radhakrishnan, S.R., Kerala Agricultural University
Rayirath, Prasad, Kerala Agricultural University
Damodaran, Abhilash, Kerala Agricultural University
Reddy, Prakash, Kerala Agricultural University
Kizhekkepurakkal, Anil Raj, Kerala Agricultural University
Arunkumar, T.G. Kerala Agricultural University
Balisseri, Ratheesan Kerala Agricultural University
Sathyan, Sangeeth, Kerala Agricultural University
Elias, Ani Anna, Kerala Agricultural University
Joseph, Jinsy Maliyelil, Kerala Agricultural University



Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan in a group exercise: developing methods for different situations