

## First record of Asiatic Painted Frog *Kaloula pulchra* on Samar Island, Philippines

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**Observer:** Marlon Pernia.  
**Photograph by:** Marlon Pernia.  
**Subject identified by:** Emerson Y. Sy.

**Location:** Samar Island, Barangay Salvacion, Municipality of Bobon, Northern Samar Province, Philippines.  
**Elevation:** 8 metres ASL.  
**Habitat:** Temporary puddle near rice fields.  
**Date and time:** 18 December 2020, 19:00 hrs.

**Identity of subject:** Asiatic Painted Frog, *Kaloula pulchra* (Amphibia: Anura: Microhylidae).

**Description of record:** A rotund frog (Fig. 1) in a temporary puddle was observed making a loud call. Its call can best be described as resembling the mournful bellow of cattle (Baker & Lim, 2012).



Fig. 1.

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**Remarks:** The frog was identified as *Kaloula pulchra* based on (i) dorsal colour is brown, (ii) two light brown dorsolateral bands, (iii) head is narrow and body is rotund, and (iv) fingertips are not expanded. The Asiatic Painted Frog is one of the six known introduced frogs in the Philippines (Pili et al., 2019) and is currently known to occur on the following islands: Boracay, Cebu, Leyte, Luzon, Marinduque, Mindanao, Mindoro, Palawan (Sy & Del Prado, 2019).

In other parts of Southeast Asia this introduced species has been proven as highly adaptable. In Singapore, for example, it occurs in urban, semi-urban, and forest-edge settings, and is often heard calling from concrete drainage ditches (often hiding in smaller drainage pipes); surprisingly it can also climb, and has been seen a number of times around 1-2 metres above ground feeding on trails of ants (Nick Baker, pers. comm.)

This note provides the first record of the species on Samar Island, the third largest island of the Philippine Archipelago.

**References:**

Baker, N. & Lim, K. K. P. (2012). Wild animals Of Singapore – a photographic guide to mammals, reptiles, amphibians and freshwater fishes. Vertebrate Study Group, Nature Society Singapore. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. 180 pp.

Pili, A.N., Sy, E.Y., Diesmos, M.L.L., and Diesmos, A.C. (2019). Island hopping in a biodiversity hotspot archipelago: reconstructed invasion history and updated status and distribution of alien frogs in the Philippines. *Pacific Science* 73(3): 321-343.

Sy, E.Y. and Del Prado, Y.L.C. (2019). New distributional records of introduced frogs on Leyte Island, Philippines. *Southeast Asia Vertebrate Records* 2019: 65-67.