

First record of Asiatic Painted Frog *Kaloula pulchra* in northern Palawan, Philippines

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Photograph by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Barangay Villa Libertad, Municipality of El Nido, Palawan Island, Palawan Province, Philippines.

Elevation: 10 metres ASL.

Habitat Residential area adjacent to farmland.

Date and time: 02 September 2019, 19:00 hrs.

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

Description of record: : A rotund frog (SVL = 3 cm) was observed on the ground in a residential area (Fig. 1).



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, (iv) body is rotund, and (v) 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, and Samar (Sy & Del Prado, 2019; Sy & Pernia, 2021)..

The species was first documented on Palawan in Puerto Princesa City in 2007 (Fidenci, 2009). This note provides the northern most record on Palawan Island.

References:

Fidenci, P. (2009). Geographic distribution: *Kaloula pulchra* (Asian Painted Frog). *Herpetological Review* 40(4): 446.

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.

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