

## First record of Asiatic Painted Frog (*Kaloula pulchra*) on Negros Island, Philippines

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**Observer:** Jezrel Ken G. Banagudos.  
**Photograph by:** Jezrel Ken G. Banagudos.  
**Subject identified by:** Abner A. Bucol, Lilibeth A. Bucol.

**Location:** Negros Island, Barangay Tubtubon, Municipality of Sibulan, Negros Oriental, Philippines (9.3443616°, 123.2820532°)

**Elevation:** 17-20 metres ASL.

**Habitat:** Temporary puddles near residential area.

**Date and time:** (i) 04 May 2023, 20:00 hrs.; (ii) 24 May 2023, 20:30 hrs.

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

### Description of records:

Following a substantial rainfall in the locality, a distinct vocalization was heard from rain-fed puddles adjacent to residential zones; the call resembled the bellow of a cattle.

The frog (Fig. 1) was first spotted on 4 May 2023 in a temporary puddle about 8 meters away from a residence. On 24 May 2023, another frog was observed in different temporary puddle nearby. The size of the frog in both encounters was the same and could be the same individual.



Fig. 1.

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### Remarks:

The robust shape of this frog, and the distinctive broad, pale orange-brown, broken band which extends from behind the eye towards the rear of the flanks, identify this frog as *Kaloula pulchra*. In addition the cattle-like call is quite unmistakable (Baker & Lim, 2012).

*Kaloula pulchra* is one of the six alien frogs in the Philippines and the spread of it may have been via three pathways that was extensively described by Pili et al. (2019). This species was reported on several islands in the Philippines such as Boracay, Cebu, Leyte, Marinduque, Mindanao, Mindoro, Palawan, and Samar (Sy & Del Prado, 2019; Sy & Pernia, 2021), but not on Negros Island. The record on Negros suggests that *K. pulchra* may now be even more widespread in the Philippines than previously documented.

## 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.

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