

I. glutinosus, entitled *tricolor* has been recorded from Travancore and Cochin, but not the type species. From the above-mentioned facts it becomes evident that the presence of *I. glutinosus* at Panchgani is worth recording.

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XXXVI.—DO FROGS EAT SNAKES?

Last year, while I was supervising the Intermediate class in their Practical Work in Zoology, my attention was drawn by a student to the much swollen stomach of a frog (*Rana tigrina*) dissected by him. On cutting open the stomach, we found to our great surprise a wolf-snake (*Lycodon aulicus*), one foot long. It was not much affected by the gastric juice; only at the neck, near the anus and at three places in the mid-body disintegration had set in. The head was intact, and there was no doubt about the species of the snake. I could not definitely ascertain whether the frog had eaten it alive or dead. These snakes, though menacing in attitude have a nervous disposition and are much susceptible to injury. Once the frog held its victim between its jaws, the latter might have made a few futile efforts to bite at the slimy and smooth skin of the amphibian and ultimately succumbed. Of course, I do not regard this as sufficient evidence to prove that the frog preyed upon a living snake; far from it. I merely suggested that it is not unlikely. The more probable explanation seems to be that the snake was eaten, already dead.

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[Snakes do not infrequently figure on the menu of the Bull Frog (*Rana tigrina*). On page 500, vol. ix of the Journal Mr. E. H. Aitken records seeing one in the act of swallowing a snake, while Mr. Sundara Raj mentions a specimen sent to the Madras Museum from Travancore which had swallowed over three-quarters of the length of a young Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosus*) measuring $34\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The Bull Frog's dietary is extremely comprehensive and few living things that can be easily overcome are passed by. We have records of its swallowing alive garden lizards (*Calotes*), a toad, chickens, a wounded snipe, sparrows, a pitta, mole crickets, scarab beetles and the cocoon of a psychid moth made of sharp babool spines, with larva inside.

D. Gostling (vol x, p. 151) removed 3 Guinea-fowl chicks (about a week old) from the stomach of a Bull Frog that had become a menace to his poultry yard, and on another occasion a dead individual on being cut open was found to have swallowed a scorpion, the obvious cause of his demise.

The Emperor Akbar trained Bull Frogs to capture sparrows. Eds.]



Mahendra, B C. 1929. "Do Frogs Eat Snakes ?" *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 33, 724–724.

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