

EASTERN

An Amateur's Guide to

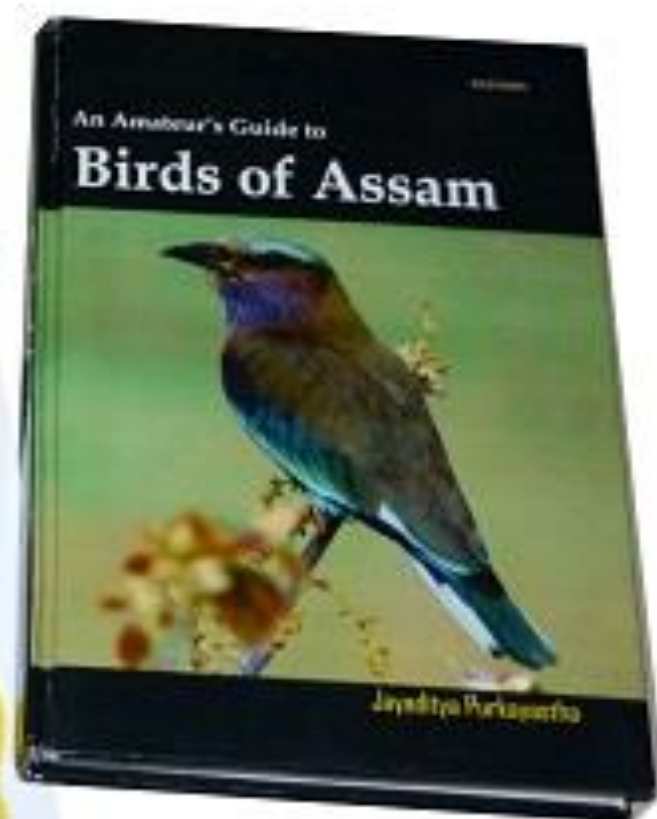
Birds of Assam

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EASTERN

Jayaditya Purkayastha



Frog Quiz

What does amphibian mean?

The word amphibian is derived from Greek and means 'two lives', referring to the fact that most amphibians spend their larval stage as aquatic, herbivorous tadpoles, and their adult stage as terrestrial carnivores. Frogs are amphibians.

How do amphibians breathe?

Tadpoles have gills like fish, and most adult frogs have lungs like us. However, amphibians have permeable skin that allows them to absorb both water and oxygen directly from the environment, right through their skin.

What's the difference between a frog and toad?

Not much. True toads (Bufonids) tend to have short legs and dry 'warty' skin, though there are plenty of frog species that fit this description as well. Toads tend to have toxic secretions, but so do poison dart frogs.

Which is smallest frog?

The smallest frogs are the *Pseudophryne delouti* and *Pseudophryne verrucosa* from Papua New Guinea, sizing in at only 9 mm in length. Next up is the critically endangered Cuban frog (*Eleutherodactylus iberia*). These frogs measure only 10 mm (0.4 in) when fully grown.

Which is largest frog?

The world's largest frog is the Goliath Frog (*Conraua goliath*), which lives in Western Africa. They can grow to be over 30 cm (1 ft) long, and weigh over 3 kg (6.6 lbs).



Asian common toad
Common Name: *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*
Chak Bhakul
Size: 9 cm
Habitat: Urban and forest fringes



Frog Facts

Frog is an amphibian which means they need both land and water to complete their life cycle. Tadpoles are aquatic whereas a frog is more of a terrestrial animal.

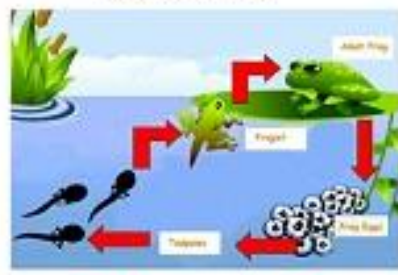
Frogs came to being about 260 million years ago. There are about 6500 species of frogs known worldwide and about 300 species are known to occur in India.

About one in every three frogs is threatened with extinction. Since 1980 about 200 species of frogs have gone extinct.

Frogs maintain ecological balance. It acts as food for animals such as snakes, birds and it feeds upon insects such as mosquitoes, flies etc.

Frogs cannot summon rain by their call, rather frogs call in search of mates generally during rainy season.

Life Cycle of Frog



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Some Frogs Of Assam



Asian common toad
Duttaphrynus melanostictus
Chak Bhakul
Size: 9 cm
Habitat: Urban and forest fringes



Assam Hills frog
Euphryne asiatica
Ranga chakul beng
Size: 4 cm
Habitat: Forest dweller



Garo hills bubble-nest frog
Philautus gare
Saru Paat beng
Size: 3 cm
Habitat: Forest dweller



Six-lined tree frog
Pseudophilautus tenellus
Paat beng
Size: 3 cm
Habitat: Urban and forests



Twinspotted Tree Frog
Philautus bipunctatus
Dui phutuki paat beng
Size: 3 cm
Habitat: Forests



Ornamented pygmy frog
Microhyla ornata
Parwa beng
Size: 3 cm
Habitat: Urban and Forests



Corrugated frog
Limnodynastes laticeps
Nana
Size: 4 cm
Habitat: Forests



Skittering frog
Euphryne asiatica
Paat beng
Size: 4 cm
Habitat: Water bodies



Indian bullfrog
Bombina orientalis
Bomun bhakula
Size: 13 cm
Habitat: Water bodies



Terral cricket frog
Zakerana terrestris
Uainings beng
Size: 8 cm
Habitat: Grassland, Paddyfields



Assam Hills frog
Philautus asiatica
Nakjanga beng
Size: 7 cm
Habitat: Forests



Assam Cascade frog
Amolops assamensis
Najans beng
Size: 9 cm
Habitat: Forest streams



Bhano frog
Hylarana bhano
Dangor dolo beng
Size: 5 cm
Habitat: Wetlands



Long-tongued frog
Hylarana longirostris
Habi beng
Size: 7 cm
Habitat: Wetlands



Yellow-striped frog
Hylarana tigris
Saru dolo beng
Size: 4 cm
Habitat: Wetlands



Brown Horn frog
Microhyla parva
Nana
Size: 5 cm
Habitat: Forest



Warty Tree frog
Theloderma asperum
Nana
Size: 4 cm
Habitat: Forest



Asian Painted frog
Calophrynus pictus
Bakul beng
Size: 6 cm
Habitat: Forest and Urban

**FRESHWATER
TURTLES & TORTOISES
OF
SOUTH ASIA**



Jayaditya Purkayastha, Indraneil Das, Saibal Sengupta



হালগীয়া কাছ
CN: Elongated Tortoise
SN: *Indotestudo elongata*
Diet: Herbivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 30 cm
Habitat: Terrestrial
CS: 1-7 eggs
IUCN Status: EN



বাখীয়া কাছ
CN: Narrow Headed Softshell
SN: *Chitra indica*
Diet: Carnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 100 cm
Habitat: Aquatic
CS: 60-170 eggs
IUCN Status: EN



হালগীয়া ফ্লট্টী কাছ
CN: Indian Flapshell
SN: *Lissemys punctata*
Diet: Omnivorous
WLPA: Schedule I
AAS: 25 cm
Habitat: Semi Aquatic
Clutch Size: 2-15 eggs
IUCN Status: LC



গংগা কাছ
CN: Indian Softshell
SN: *Nilssonina gangetica*
Diet: Carnivorous
WLPA: Schedule I
AAS: 40 cm
Habitat: Aquatic
CS: 25-35 eggs
IUCN Status: VU



বর কাছ
CN: Peacock Softshell
SN: *Nilssonina hurum*
Diet: Carnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 50 cm
Habitat: Aquatic
Clutch Size: 10-30 eggs
IUCN Status: VU



বর মূবীয়া কাছ
CN: Black Softshell
SN: *Nilssonina nigricans*
Diet: Carnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 60 cm
Habitat: Aquatic
CS: 10-38 eggs
IUCN Status: EW



জাপ দুবা
CN: Malayan Box Turtle
SN: *Cuora amboinensis*
Diet: Herbivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 20 cm
Habitat: Semi Aquatic
CS: 1-6 eggs
IUCN Status: VU



চুবীয়া জাপ দুবা
CN: Keeled Box Turtle
SN: *Cuora mouhotii*
Diet: Herbivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 25 cm
Habitat: Terrestrial
CS: 4-8 eggs
IUCN Status: EN



চাপডা দুবা
CN: Indian Leaf Turtle
SN: *Cyclanops gemelli*
Diet: Omnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 20 cm
Habitat: Semi Aquatic
Clutch Size: Unknown
IUCN Status: NE



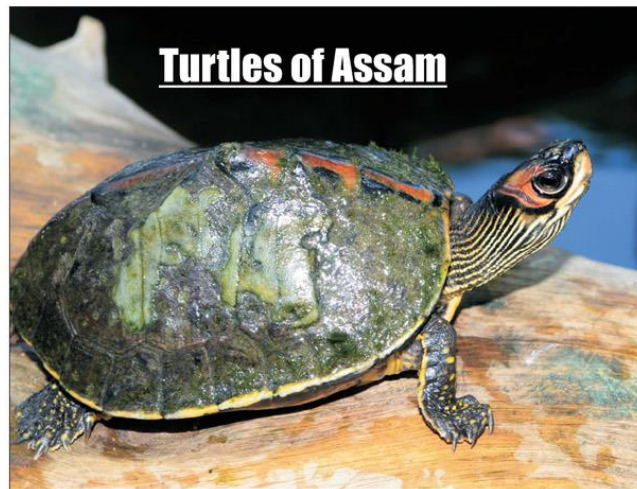
নল দুবা
CN: Spotted Pond Turtle
SN: *Geoclemys hamiltonii*
Diet: Carnivorous
WLPA: Schedule I
AAS: 35 cm
Habitat: Aquatic
CS: 26-36 eggs
IUCN Status: VU



বর দুবা
CN: Crowned River Turtle
SN: *Hardella thurjii*
Diet: Herbivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 40 cm
Habitat: Aquatic
Clutch Size: 8-13 eggs
IUCN Status: VU



গাহাবী কাছ
CN: Brown Tortoise
SN: *Manouria emys*
Diet: Herbivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 50 cm
Habitat: Terrestrial
CS: 23-51 eggs
IUCN Status: EN

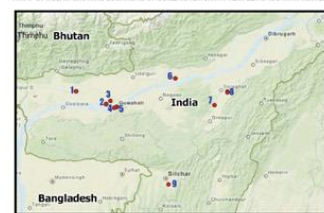


Turtles of Assam

কুটী শালিকা দুবা
CN: Indian Tent Turtle
SN: *Pangshura tecta*
Diet: Omnivorous
WLPA: Schedule I
AAS: 20 cm
Habitat: Semi Aquatic
CS: 4-11 eggs
IUCN Status: LC

ABBREVIATIONS:
CN: Common Name; **SN:** Scientific Name; **WLPA:** Wildlife Protection Act; **AAS:** Average Adult Size; **CS:** Clutch Size
IUCN STATUS:
EW: Extinct in the wild; **EN:** Endangered; **VU:** Vulnerable; **NT:** Near threatened; **NE:** Not evaluated; **LC:** Least Concern.

A MAP OF ASSAM SHOWING LOCATIONS OF SOME NOTEWORTHY TEMPLE PONDS WITH TURTLE



1: Gorokhya Gohai Than, Sorbhog; 2: Haigrib Madhab Temple, Hajo; 3: Kedar Temple, Hajo; 4: Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati; 5: Ugrotra Temple, Guwahati; 6: Nag Shankar Temple, Sonitpur; 7: Deopani, Karbi Anglong; 8: Athkheiyi Namghar, Golaghat; 9: Karbi Anglong, Morigaon, Dibrugarh

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Photo Credit:
M. petersii by Indranil Das, *N. hurum* by Gyanendra Deka & Sumit Das
M. trijuga & *H. thurjii* by Anirban Choudhuri; Rest by Jayaditya Purkayastha.



কলাগলি কাছ
CN: Indian Black Turtle
SN: *Melanochelys trijuga*
Diet: Omnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 30 cm
Habitat: Aquatic
CS: 3-7 eggs
IUCN Status: NT



বামুড়ী দুবা
CN: Tricarinate Hill Turtle
SN: *Melanochelys tricarinata*
Diet: Omnivorous
WLPA: Schedule I
AAS: 20 cm
Habitat: Terrestrial
CS: 1-6 eggs
IUCN Status: VU

মুগা দুবা
CN: Brown Roofed Turtle
SN: *Pangshura smithii*
Diet: Omnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 15 cm
Habitat: Semi Aquatic
CS: 3-11 eggs
IUCN Status: NT



বানো দুবা
CN: Indian Eyed Turtle
SN: *Morenia petersi*
Diet: Omnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 20 cm
Habitat: Aquatic
Clutch Size: 3-7 eggs
IUCN Status: VU



শালিকা দুবা
CN: Indian Roofed Turtle
SN: *Pangshura tentoria*
Diet: Omnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 25 cm
Habitat: Semi Aquatic
CS: 23-51 eggs
IUCN Status: LC

দুলাহ দুবা
CN: Assam Roofed Turtle
SN: *Pangshura sylhetensis*
Diet: Carnivorous
WLPA: Schedule IV
AAS: 20 cm
Habitat: Semi Aquatic
Clutch Size: 6-12 eggs
IUCN Status: EN



বামুখী দুৰা



ফুটুকী শানীকা দুৰা



হালধীয়া কাছ



গংগা কাছ



মুগা দুৰা



শানীকা দুৰা



হালধীয়া ফুটুকী কাছ



বৰ কাছ



ফুলাম দুৰা



নল দুৰা



বাধীয়া কাছ



বৰ মূৰীয়া কাছ

POINTS TO NOTE

1. There are 19 species of turtles and tortoises known from Assam
2. 12 species of turtle are present in different temple ponds of Assam
3. Turtles are one of the most endangered groups of animal
4. Buying, selling and hunting of turtle is illegal and punishable by law
5. Do not throw things (plastic, polythene bags, bottles etc) into the pond

মন কৰিবলগীয়া কথা

- ১) ১৯ টি প্ৰজাতিৰ কাছ অসমত পোৱা যায়।
- ২) ১২ প্ৰজাতিৰ কাছ অসমৰ বিভিন্ন মন্দিৰৰ পুৰুষীত পোৱা গৈছে।
- ৩) কাছ সংৰক্ষিত জীৱৰ ভিতৰত অন্যতম।
- ৪) কোং, কিনা, চিকাৰ আদি ভেৰেইনী অৰু আইনমতে দণ্ডনীয়।
- ৫) এইবোৰ পুৰুষীত প্ৰতিক, পলিকিৰ বেগ আদি ফেলিব।