



MUTUALISM IN *Ramanella nagoi* MANAMENDRA-ARACHCHI & PETHIYAGODA, 2001 (AMPHIBIA: MICROHYLIDAE) AND *Poecilotheria* SPECIES (ARACNIDA: THERESIDAE) FROM SRI LANKA

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D. M. S. Suranjan Karunarathna¹ and A. A. Thasun Amarasinghe^{2,3}

¹ IUCN – Sri Lanka Country office, No: 53, Horton place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

² Taprobanica Nature Conservation Society, No: 146, Kendalanda, Homagama, Sri Lanka

³ Corresponding author: aathasun@gmail.com

Abstract

Ramanella nagoi is an endemic and vulnerable species of Family Microhylidae distributed in lowland wet zone rain forests and reproduce and live in and around tree hollows. This article presents some aspects of mutualism of *R. nagoi* with *Poecilotheria ornata* and *P. (cf.) subfusca* thereposid spiders in random field visits during the past seven years. This is the first observation of this symbiotic behaviour.

Key words: *Ramanella nagoi*, *Poecilotheria*, commensalism, inter-specific association, symbiotic relationship, Sri Lanka

Introduction

The frog Family Microhylidae in Sri Lanka represents four genera and ten species, while the genus *Ramanella* represents four species; *R. variegata* (Stoliczka, 1872), *R. obscura* (Günther, 1864), *R. palmata* Parker, 1943 and *R. nagoi* Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda, 2001 respectively. *R. palmata*, *R. obscura* and *R. nagoi* are endemic, and *R. nagoi* is evidently restricted to tree hollows in the Kanneliya Forest Reserve in

Southern Sri Lanka (Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda, 2001) and it is known from few other forests (e.g. Sinharaja, Kithulgala, Athwelthota, Gilimale, Kottawa-Kombala Forest near Hiyare, Nakiyadeniya, Dediyaagala, Hiniduma, Beraliya-Elpitiya and low altitudes in Sri Pada Nature Reserve). Here we describe observations of mutualism relationship between a microhylid frog, *Ramanella nagoi* and two species of tarantula