



OBSERVATIONS OF A NEW COLORATION IN *Philautus hoffmanni* MEEGASKUMBURA & MANAMENDRA-ARACHCHI, 2005 (AMPHIBIA: RHACOPHORIDAE) FROM DUMBARA HIGHLANDS

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Abstract

Philautus hoffmanni is considered the sister species of *P. asankai*. According to published literature the dorsal color of *P. hoffmanni* is usually pale green with reddish brown, ash and brown spots. White coloration in these frogs has not been reported previously even *P. asankai* shows ashy white. This white coloration of *P. hoffmanni* highlights again the close relation of this species with *P. asankai*. This is the second known case of white body coloration in this genus. This coloration is related to nycthemeral cycle, the same specimen being whitish at day, and pale green or brown at night.

Key words: *Philautus asankai*, color change, nycthemeral cycle, Sri Lanka

Introduction

The island of Sri Lanka harbours 65 species of the Rhacophorid genus *Philautus* (Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda 2005, 2006; Meegaskumbura & Manamendra-Arachchi 2005; Meegaskumbura *et al.* 2007; Meegaskumbura *et al.* 2009; Pethiyagoda *et al.* 2006), that includes *Philautus asankai* Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda 2005 and *Philautus hoffmanni* Meegaskumbura & Manamendra-Arachchi 2005, this two sister species that inhabit two adjacent

moist mountain ranges (Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda 2006; Meegaskumbura & Manamendra-Arachchi 2005). *P. asankai* is restricted to the Central hills, at elevations between 810 and 1830 m. Its dorsal color is very variable: e.g., pale green, pale brown with ashy spots, light bluish (Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda 2005) or ashy white (see fig. 116 in Manamendra-Arachchi & Pethiyagoda 2005). During the daytime, these frogs generally assume a lighter