



Use of Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) Dung as a Foraging Site by Sarojamma’s Leaping Frog (*Indirana sarojamma*)

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Optimal foraging theory predicts that animals employ strategies, such as the choice of foraging sites, to maximize foraging success (Pyke 1984). Sit-and-wait predators typically spend most of their foraging bouts waiting for prey at a single site, the selection of which can strongly affect the success of prey capture (e.g., Scharf and Ovadia 2006). Herein I report the possible exploitation of bovine dung as a foraging site by a frog.

At 1300 h on 14 July 2019, I encountered a Sarojamma’s Leaping Frog (*Indirana sarojamma*) in the Palod Reserve Forest (8.684768°N, 77.141579°E; WGS84) adjoining the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram Campus, Vithura, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. The frog was in an ambush position on freshly deposited Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) dung on the forest floor (Fig. 1). Other than taking photographs, I left the frog undisturbed. I had previously collected

a frog from the same locality that was clearly identified as a Sarojamma’s Leaping Frog based on characters noted by Dahanukar et al. (2016) and Garg and Biju (2016).

Anurans are known to use cattle dung as a foraging site to increase the chance of prey (insect) encounters (González-Bernal et al. 2012; Landestoy et al. 2015; Baxter-Gilbert et al. 2020). In the encounter described above, I believe that the use of dung for moisture was unlikely as the frog was within a few meters of a perennial stream during the monsoon season. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first record of a frog using wild bovine dung as a foraging site.

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Fig. 1. A Sarojamma’s Leaping Frog (*Indirana sarojamma*) on wild Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) dung (left), and another individual (snout-urostyle length 34 mm) collected from the same locality (right). Photographs by Gopal Murali.

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