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An Updated Checklist of Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal

Tapil Prakash Rai, Sabin Adhikari & Pablo Garcia Antón

Abstract

An updated checklist of the herpetofauna of Nepal is presented. In total, the amphibian fauna of Nepal consists of 57 species in 22 genera, 8 families, and 3 orders (Anura: 55 species in 20 genera and 6 families; Caudata: 1 species in 1 genus and 1 family; Gymnophiona: 1 species in 1 genus and 1 family), while the reptilian fauna of Nepal consists of 143 species in 71 genera, 20 families, and 3 orders (Crocodylia: 2 species in 2 genera and 2 families; Squamata: 125 species in 58 genera and 15 families [Sauria: 41 species in 16 genera and 6 families; Serpentes: 84 species in 42 genera and 9 families]; Testudines: 16 species in 11 genera and 3 families). There is a very low level of endemism, with only 19 species being endemic to the country. As further field and taxonomic work are carried out, we expect new species records and extended range distribution of species for the country that assuredly enrich this checklist. This work highlights the importance of specific conservation plans in the study region and the need for further research on the hidden biodiversity of this country.

Keywords: Anura, biodiversity, conservation status, herpetofauna, sauria, taxonomy

Introduction

The Himalayan country of Nepal owes its rich diversity of 56 amphibian and 142 reptile species (including both confirmed and possible occurrences) to its unique geographic situation (Kästle et al., 2013). This relatively small country lies in the transitional zone between the Palearctic and Oriental zoogeographic regions; and the herpetofauna consists of a mixture of Indian, Himalayan, Indo-Malayan, Tibetan, Chinese, and Southwest Asian elements. This is mainly because Nepal comprises several mountain chains that form distinct geographic barriers and divide the country into five topographically zones: The Terai Zone, The Inner Terai zone, The Midland Mountain zone, The Trans-Himalayan zone, and Great Himalayan Highlands Zone (Shrestha, 2001) which are all climatically complex regions (Schleich & Kästle, 2002). The diversity and distribution of Nepal's herpetofauna and other Trans-Himalayan regions have been the subject of several investigators in the past. The earliest studies on Nepal's herpetofauna were conducted during the beginning of the 18th century, and the first major analysis of Nepalese herpetofauna was made by the collection of Hodgson's specimens between 1826 and 1854, by Thomas Hardwicke, Hugh Falconer, H. W. Tilman, Oleg Polunin, and Hermann Schlagintweit (Günther 1858, 1860, 1861). Boulenger (1907), Annandale et al. (1907), Leviton et al. (1956), and Swan & Leviton (1962) formulated a sound basis for zoogeographical Nepalese herpetofauna. Since then, Dubois (1974, 1984), Fleming & Fleming (1973), Kramer (1977), Nanhoë & Ouboter (1987), Zug & Mitchell (1995), Das (1998), O'Shea (1998), Schleich & Kästle (1998, 2002), Shrestha (2001), Tillack (2003), Rai (2004), Shah & Tiwari (2004), Aryal et al. (2010), Pandey (2012), Kästle et al. (2013), Khatiwada et al. (2021) have contributed immensely to the herpetological research in Nepal.

From the beginning of the current century, and until now, systematic and phylogeographic oriented studies on Nepal's herpetofauna have experienced a noticeable increase (e.g., Giannasi et al., 2001; Praschag et al., 2009; Rai, 2013; Garg et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2020; Khatiwada et al., 2021). This

resulted in the description of several new species and changes in the taxonomic status of many taxa, indicating a strong need for regular updates to the herpetofauna species list of Nepal. The purpose of this contribution is to provide an update on the status of Nepal's herpetofauna and to summarize the nomenclatural changes that have taken place since the publication of the most recent checklists (Schleich & Kästle, 2002; Shah & Tiwari, 2004; Kästle et al., 2013). This summary can be used to gain a better understanding of national and international policies regarding the biodiversity of the country and to provide an accessible and updated reference list that serves as an important tool for herpetologists and other researchers interested in the biodiversity of Nepal. The checklist is presented taxonomically and alphabetically by class, order, family, genus, and species. In addition to indicating the species, we provided their common name and conservation status according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Further, wherever necessary, the species are supplemented with information by assigning each a superscript.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

Geographically, Nepal lies at a latitude between 26° and 30° north and a longitude between 80° and 88° east stretching approximately 145-241 km north to south and 850 km west to east. The landform varies greatly in its physical form, ranging from the Tarai Plain in the south to the Himalayans in the north. In between these regions, there are middle hills and lesser mountains consisting of the Churia (Siwalik) and Mahabharat Range. The substantial change in climatic conditions from sub-tropical to the Arctic is a result of these altitudinal variations. The Terai in the south runs from far-west to far-east and is drenched by an array of water systems: the Koshi, Narayani, and Karnali being some of the largest water systems in the country. Monsoons enter the country from the eastern region and subsequently move towards the west. The distribution of precipitation, however, is again governed by the topography of the country and ranges from about 150 mm to over 1500 mm per annum (Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, 2015).

There are six recognized biomes occurring in Nepal, 35 forest types, and 118 ecosystems. Wetland covers about 5% of the total area of the country (Ministry of Forests and Environment, 2018). There are now 20 Protected Areas (PAs) that include 12 National Parks, 1 Wildlife Reserve, 1 Hunting Reserve, 6 Conservation Areas, and 13 Buffer Zones (covering 23.39 % of the country's land) that strive to protect the exceptional biodiversity of Nepal (Figure 1). Nevertheless, this work is not restricted to PAs and also encompasses the herpetofauna studies conducted outside of it.

Methods

The method for gathering available data involved an extensive literature review of various published and unpublished works on the herpetofauna of Nepal. This involved a thorough search for published articles, reports, books, and theses. The nomenclature of this checklist follows the version of Frost (2021) and Uetz et al. (2021) for amphibians and reptiles respectively. In addition, personal communications from experienced herpetologists were made whenever any doubt on newly described species arose. The efforts to update the checklist were accompanied by fact-checking each species. We looked into the

confirmed presence of species mentioned in any previous research publication, the restrictions imposed on species to a certain geographic range by any new study, and taxonomic changes if any. The nomenclatural changes up until May, 2022 have been summed up in the present work.



Fig. 1: Map of Nepal showing Protected Areas (Source: DNPWC, 2022)

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Checklist of Amphibians of Nepal.

Explanatory notes:

*verifiable records in need

#endemic to Nepal

¹ different from true *Amolops afghanus* and exact taxonomic identity remains unclear

² first described from Chitwan National Park and genetic sampling is needed to make any taxonomic changes

³ identification of this nominal species in Nepal are provisional as they have yet to be evaluated by molecular assay

⁴ first described from Narayanghat, Chitwan and until is known from the type locality

CLASS: AMPHIBIA				
SN	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status	CITES
ORDER: ANURA				
Family: Bufonidae Gray, 1825				
1	<i>Duttaphrynus himalayanus</i> (Günther, 1864)	Himalaya Toad	LC	-
2	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Asian Black-spined Toad	LC	-
3	<i>Duttaphrynus stomaticus</i> (Lütken, 1864)	Marbled Toad	LC	-
Family Dicroglossidae Anderson, 1871				
4	<i>Euphlyctis kalasgramensis</i> (Howlader, Nair, Gopalan & Merilä, 2015)	Bangladesh Skittering Frog	-	-
5	<i>Fejervarya orissaensis</i> (Dutta, 1997)	Orissa Cricket Frog	-	-
6	<i>Hoplobatrachus crassus</i> (Jerdon, 1853)	Jerdon's Bullfrog	LC	-
7	<i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i> (Daudin, 1802)	Indian Bullfrog	LC	II
8	<i>Minervarya nepalensis</i> (Dubois, 1975)	Nepal Cricket Frog	LC	-
9	<i>Minervarya pierrei</i> (Dubois, 1975)	Pierre's Cricket Frog	LC	-
10	<i>Minervarya syhadrensis</i> (Annandale, 1919)	Syhadra Frog	LC	-
11	<i>Minervarya teraiensis</i> (Dubois, 1984)	Terai Cricket Frog	LC	-
12	* <i>Nanorana annandalii</i> (Boulenger, 1920)	Annandale's Paa Frog	NT	-
13	<i>Nanorana blanfordii</i> (Boulenger, 1882)	Blanford's Paa Frog	LC	-
14	<i>Nanorana ercepeae</i> (Dubois, 1974)	Torrent Paa Frog	NT	-
15	<i>Nanorana liebigii</i> (Günther, 1860)	Liebig's Paa Frog	LC	-
16	<i>Nanorana minica</i> (Dubois, 1975)	Small Paa Frog	VU	-
17	<i>Nanorana parkeri</i> (Stejneger, 1927)	High Himalaya Frog	LC	-
18	<i>Nanorana polunini</i> (Smith, 1951)	Polunin's Paa Frog	LC	-
19	# <i>Nanorana rarica</i> (Dubois, Matsui, & Ohler, 2001)	Rara Paa Frog	DD	-
20	<i>Nanorana rostandi</i> (Dubois, 1974)	Rostand's Paa Frog	VU	-
21	<i>Ombrana sikimensis</i> (Jerdon, 1870)	Sikkim Asian Frog	LC	-
22	<i>Sphaerotheca breviceps</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Indian Burrowing Frog	LC	-

23	<i>Sphaerotheca maskeyi</i> (Schleich & Anders, 1998)	Maskey's Burrowing Frog	LC	-
24	* <i>Sphaerotheca rolandae</i> (Dubois, 1983)	Roland's Burrowing Frog	LC	-
25	# <i>Sphaerotheca swani</i> (Myers & Leviton, 1956)	Swan's Burrowing Frog	DD	-
Family: Megophryidae Bonaparte, 1850				
26	<i>Scutiger boulengeri</i> (Bedriaga, 1898)	Boulenger's High Altitude Toad	LC	-
27	# <i>Scutiger ghunsa</i> (Khatiwada, Shu, Subedi, Wang, Ohler, Canatella, Xie, & Jiang 2019)	Ghunsa High Altitude Toad	-	-
28	# <i>Scutiger nepalensis</i> (Dubois, 1974)	Nepal's High Altitude Toad	VU	-
29	* <i>Scutiger nyingchiensis</i> (Fei, 1977)	Nyingchi High Altitude Toad	LC	-
30	<i>Scutiger sikimensis</i> (Blyth, 1855)	Sikkim High Altitude Toad	LC	-
31	<i>Xenophrys monticola</i> Günther, 1864	Mountain Horned Frog	-	-
32	<i>Xenophrys robusta</i> (Boulenger, 1908)	Robust Spadefoot Toad	DD	-
33	<i>Xenophrys zhang</i> (Ye & Fei, 1992)	Zhang's Horned Toad	NT	-
Family: Microhylidae Günther, 1858				
34	<i>Microhyla nilphamariensis</i> (Howlader, Nair, Gopalan, & Merilä, 2015)	Nilphamarai Narrow-mouthed Frog	-	-
35	# <i>Microhyla taraiensis</i> (Khatiwada, Shu, Wang, Thapa, Wang, & Jiang, 2017)	Tarai Narrow-mouthed Frog	-	-
36	<i>Uperodon globulosus</i> (Günther, 1864)	Indian Balloon Frog	LC	-
37	<i>Uperodon systoma</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Marbled Balloon Frog	LC	-
38	<i>Uperodon taprobanicus</i> (Parker, 1934)	Sri Lankan Bullfrog	LC	-
Family: Ranidae Batsch, 1796				
39	<i>Amolops formosus</i> (Günther, 1876)	Assam Cascade Frog	LC	-
40	# <i>Amolops mahabharatensis</i> (Khatiwada, Shu, Wang, Zhao, Xie, & Jiang, 2020)	Mahabharat Torrent Frog	-	-
41	¹ <i>Amolops</i> cf. <i>afghanus</i>			
42	<i>Amolops monticola</i> (Anderson, 1871)	Mountain Cascade Frog	LC	-

43	[#] <i>Amolops nepalicus</i> (Yang, 1991)	Nepal Cascade Frog	DD	-
44	<i>Humerana humeralis</i> (Boulenger, 1887)	Bhamo Frog	LC	-
45	<i>Hydrophylax leptoglossa</i> (Cope, 1868)	Cope's Assam Frog	LC	-
46	^{#2} <i>Hylarana chitwanensis</i> (Das, 1998)	Chitwan Frog	NT	-
47	<i>Hylarana tytleri</i> (Theobald, 1868)	Yellow-striped Frog	LC	-
48	³ <i>Sylvirana nigrovittata</i> (Blyth, 1856)	Black-striped Frog	LC	-
Family: Rhacophoridae Hoffman, 1932				
49	<i>Polypedates himalayensis</i> (Annandale, 1912)	Himalayan Tree Frog	-	-
50	<i>Polypedates maculatus</i> (Gray, 1830)	Chunam Frog	LC	-
51	<i>Polypedates taeniatus</i> (Boulenger, 1906)	Terai Tree Frog	LC	-
52	<i>Polypedates teraiensis</i> (Dubois, 1987)	Common Tree Frog	LC	-
53	^{#4} <i>Polypedates zed</i> (Dubois, 1987)	Narayanghat Whipping Frog	DD	-
54	<i>Raorchestes annandalii</i> (Boulenger, 1906)	Annandale's Bush Frog	LC	-
55	<i>Zhangixalus smaragdinus</i> (Blyth, 1852)	Nepal Flying Frog	-	-
ORDER: CAUDATA				
Family: Salamandridae Goldfuss, 1820				
56	<i>Tylototriton himalayanus</i> (Khatriwada, Wang, Ghimire, Vasudevan, Paudel, & Jiang, 2015)	Himalayan Salamander	VU	II
ORDER: GYMNOPTIONA				
Family: Ichthyophiidae Taylor, 1968				
57	<i>Ichthyophis sikkimensis</i> (Taylor, 1960)	Sikkimese Caecilian	DD	-

Table 2: **Checklist of Reptiles of Nepal.**

Explanatory notes:

*verifiable records in need

#endemic to Nepal

¹ Listed by Schleich & Kästle (2002) and Kästle et al. (2013) as probable species for Nepal with no authentic records as well the geographic range of the species by the IUCN Red List Assessment includes some parts of Eastern Nepal

² a single record from Nepal without exact locality and its presence is considered possible by David et al. (2015)

³ mentioned for Nepal from Kulu valley by Lalremsanga et al. (2022)

CLASS: REPTILIA				
SN	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status	CITES
ORDER: CROCODYLIA				
Family: Crocodylidae Cuvier, 1807				
1	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i> (Lesson, 1831)	Mugger Crocodile	VU	I
Family: Gavialidae Adams 1854				
2	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	Gharial	CR	I
ORDER: SQUAMATA				
Suborder: Sauria				
Family: Agamidae Gray, 1827				
3	<i>Calotes versicolor</i> (Daudin, 1802)	Oriental Garden Lizard	LC	-
4	# <i>Japalura dasi</i> (Shah & Kästle, 2002)	Agaupani Forest Lizard	VU	-
5	<i>Japalura kumaonensis</i> (Annandale, 1907)	Kumaon Mountain Lizard	NT	-
6	<i>Japalura major</i> (Jerdon, 1870)	Large Mountain Lizard	LC	-
7	<i>Japalura tricarinata</i> (Blyth, 1853)	Tricarinate Forest Agama	LC	-
8	<i>Japalura variegata</i> (Gray, 1853)	Variegated Mountain Lizard	LC	-
9	<i>Laudakia tuberculata</i> (Gray, 1827)	Tuberculated Agama	LC	-
10	<i>Phrynocephalus theobaldi</i> (Blyth, 1863)	Theobald's Toad-headed Agama	LC	-
11	# <i>Sitana fusca</i> (Schleich & Kästle, 1998)	Dark Sitana	CR	-

12	# <i>Sitana schleichi</i> (Anders & Kästle, 2002)	Suklaphantah Sitana	EN	-
13	# <i>Sitana sivalensis</i> (Schleich, Kästle, & Shah, 1998)	Siwalik Sitana	LC	-
Family: Anguinae Gray, 1825				
14	<i>Dopasia gracilis</i> (Gray, 1845)	Burmese Glass Lizard	LC	-
Family: Eublepharidae Boulenger, 1883				
15	<i>Eublepharis macularius</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Common Leopard Gecko	LC	-
Family: Gekkonidae Gray, 1825				
16	* <i>Cyrtodactylus cf. collegalensis</i>			
17	# <i>Cyrtodactylus markuscombaii</i> (Darevsky, Helfenberger, Orlov, & Shah, 1998)	Striped Gecko	DD	-
18	# <i>Cyrtodactylus martinistolli</i> (Darevsky, Helfenberger, Orlov, & Shah, 1998)	Barred Gecko	DD	-
19	# <i>Cyrtodactylus nepalensis</i> (Schleich & Kästle, 1998)	Nepalese Rock Gecko	DD	-
20	<i>Gekko gekko</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Tokay Gecko	LC	II
21	<i>Hemidactylus bowringii</i> (Gray, 1845)	Bowring's Smooth Gecko	LC	-
22	<i>Hemidactylus brookii</i> (Gray, 1845)	Brook's House Gecko	LC	-
23	<i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i> (Rüppell, 1835)	Yellow-bellied House Gecko	LC	-
24	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> (Duméril & Bibron, 1836)	Common House Gecko	LC	-
25	<i>Hemidactylus garnotii</i> (Duméril & Bibron, 1836)	Garnot's House Gecko	LC	-
26	<i>Hemidactylus platyurus</i> (Schneider, 1797)	Flat-tailed House Gecko	LC	-
Family: Scincidae Gray, 1825				
27	<i>Ablepharus sikimensis</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Sikkim Ground Skink	LC	-
28	<i>Ablepharus himalayanus</i> (Günther, 1864)	Himalayan Ground Skink	LC	-
29	<i>Ablepharus ladacensis</i> (Günther, 1864)	Ladak Ground Skink	LC	-
30	# <i>Ablepharus mahabharatus</i> (Eremchenko, Shah, & Panfilov, 1998)	Mahabharat Ground Skink	DD	-
31	# <i>Ablepharus nepalensis</i> (Eremchenko & Helfenberger, 1998)	Nepal Ground Skink	DD	-
32	<i>Eutropis carinata</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Keeled Indian Skink	LC	-

33	<i>Eutropis trivittata</i> (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827)	Three-banded Skink	LC	-
34	<i>Eutropis macularia</i> (Blyth, 1853)	Bronze Skink	LC	-
35	<i>Riopa albopunctata</i> (Gray, 1846)	White-spotted Supple Skink	LC	-
36	<i>Riopa punctata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Common Dotted Garden Skink	LC	-
37	[#] <i>Scincella capitanea</i> (Ouboter, 1986)	Large Ground Skink	LC	-
38	<i>Scincella reevesii</i> (Gray, 1838)	Reeve's Smooth Skink	LC	-
39	<i>Sphenomorphus indicus</i> (Gray, 1853)	Himalayan Forest Skink	LC	-
40	<i>Sphenomorphus maculatus</i> (Blyth, 1853)	Spotted Forest Skink	LC	-
Family: Varanidae Merrem, 1820				
41	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i> (Daudin, 1802)	Bengal Monitor Lizard	NT	I
42	<i>Varanus flavescens</i> (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827)	Yellow Monitor	EN	I
43	<i>Varanus salvator</i> (Laurenti, 1768)	Common Water Monitor	LC	II
Suborder: Serpentes				
Family: Boidae Gray, 1825				
44	<i>Eryx conicus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Rough-tailed Sand Boa	NT	II
45	<i>Eryx johnii</i> (Russell, 1801)	Red Sand Boa	NT	II
Family: Colubridae Oppel, 1811				
46	<i>Ahaetulla laudankia</i> (Deepak, Narayanan, Sarkar, Dutta, & Mohapatra, 2019)	Laudanka Vine Snake	LC	-
47	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i> (Lacépède, 1789)	Long-nosed Tree Snake	LC	-
48	<i>Amphiesma stolatum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Buff Striped Keelback	LC	-
49	<i>Atretium schistosum</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Olive Keelback Water Snake	LC	III
50	<i>Boiga cyanea</i> (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)	Green Cat Snake	LC	-
51	<i>Boiga forsteni</i> (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)	Forsten's Cat Snake	LC	-
52	<i>Boiga multifasciata</i> (Blyth, 1861)	Many-banded Tree Snake	LC	-
53	<i>*Boiga nuchalis</i> (Günther, 1875)	Collared Cat Snake	LC	-
54	<i>Boiga ochracea</i> (Theobald, 1868)	Tawny Cat Snake	LC	-
55	<i>Boiga siamensis</i> (Nutaphand, 1971)	Gray Cat Snake	LC	-
56	<i>Boiga trigonata</i> (Schneider, 1802)	Indian Gamma Snake	LC	
57	<i>Boiga westermanni</i> (Reinhardt, 1863)	Indian Egg-eating Snake	LC	II
58	<i>Chrysopelea ornata</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Ornate Flying Snake	LC	-
59	<i>Coelognathus helena</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Trinket snake	LC	-

60	<i>Coelognathus radiatus</i> (Boie, 1827)	Copper-headed Trinket Snake	LC	-
61	* <i>Dendrelaphis pictus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	Common Bronze-back	LC	-
62	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Common Bronzeback Tree Snake	LC	-
63	<i>Elaphe cantoris</i> (Boulenger, 1894)	Eastern Trinket Snake	LC	-
64	<i>Elaphe hodgsoni</i> (Günther, 1860)	Hodgson's Racer	LC	-
65	<i>Fowlea piscator</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Checkered Keelback	LC	-
66	<i>Fowlea sanctijohannis</i> (Boulenger, 1890)	St. John's Keelback	LC	-
67	<i>Fowlea schnurrenbergeri</i> (Kramer, 1977)	Bar-necked Keelback	LC	-
68	* ¹ <i>Gonyosoma prasinum</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Green Trinket Snake	LC	-
69	* ² <i>Hebius clerki</i> (Wall, 1925)	Yunnan Keelback	LC	-
70	<i>Hebius parallelum</i> (Boulenger, 1890)	Yunnan Keelback	DD	-
71	<i>Herpetoreas platyceps</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Himalayan Keelback	LC	-
72	* ³ <i>Herpetoreas sieboldii</i> (Günther, 1860)	Sikkim Keelback	DD	-
73	<i>Liopeltis calamaria</i> (Günther, 1858)	Calamaria Reed Snake	LC	-
74	<i>Liopeltis rappi</i> (Günther, 1860)	Himalayan Stripe-necked Snake	LC	-
75	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Common Wolf Snake	LC	-
76	<i>Lycodon jara</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Twin-spotted Wolf Snake	LC	-
77	<i>Lycodon striatus</i> (Shaw, 1802)	Barred Wolf Snake	LC	-
78	<i>Oligodon albocinctus</i> (Cantor, 1839)	White-barred Kukri Snake	LC	-
79	<i>Oligodon cyclurus</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Cantor's Kukri Snake	LC	-
80	<i>Oligodon erythrogaster</i> (Boulenger, 1907)	Nagarkot Kukri Snake	NT	-
81	<i>Oligodon kheriensis</i> (Acharji & Ray, 1936)	Coral Red Kukri Snake	LC	-
82	<i>Oligodon russelius</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Russell's Kukri Snake	-	-
83	<i>Oreocryptophis porphyraceus</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Black-banded Trinket Snake	LC	-
84	<i>Pseudoxenodon macrops</i> (Blyth, 1855)	Large-eyed Bamboo Snake	LC	-
85	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Oriental Rat Snake	LC	II
86	* <i>Ptyas nigromarginata</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Green Rat Snake	LC	-
87	<i>Rhabdophis helleri</i> (Schmidt, 1925)	Heller's Red-necked Keelback	-	-
88	<i>Rhabdophis himalayanus</i> (Günther, 1864)	Himalayan Keelback	LC	-
89	<i>Sibynophis collaris</i> (Gray, 1853)	Collared Black-headed Snake	LC	-

90	<i>Sibynophis sagittarius</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Cantor's Black-headed Snake	LC	-
91	<i>Spalerosophis atriceps</i> (Fischer, 1885)	Diadem Snake	LC	-
92	<i>Trachischium fuscum</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Blackbelly Worm-eating Snake	LC	-
93	* <i>Trachischium guentheri</i> (Boulenger, 1890)	Günther's Worm-eating Snake	VU	-
94	<i>Trachischium laeve</i> (Peracca, 1904)	Olive Oriental Slender Snake	LC	-
95	<i>Trachischium tenuiceps</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Yellowbelly Worm-eating Snake	DD	-
96	<i>Xenochrophis cerasogaster</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Painted Keelback	VU	-
Family: Elapidae F. Boie, 1827				
97	<i>Bungarus bungaroides</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Himalayan Krait	LC	-
98	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Common Krait	LC	-
99	<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Banded Krait	LC	-
100	<i>Bungarus lividus</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Lesser Black Krait	LC	-
101	<i>Bungarus niger</i> (Wall, 1908)	Greater Black Krait	LC	-
102	<i>Bungarus walli</i> (Wall, 1907)	Wall's Krait	LC	-
103	<i>Naja kaouthia</i> (Lesson, 1831)	Monocellate Cobra	LC	II
104	<i>Naja naja</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Indian Cobra	LC	II
105	<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i> (Cantor, 1836)	King Cobra	VU	II
106	<i>Sinomicrurus macclellandi</i> (Reinhardt, 1844)	MacClelland's Coral Snake	LC	-
Family: Homalopsidae Bonaparte, 1845				
107	<i>Enhydris enhydris</i> (Schneider, 1799)	Rainbow Mud Snake	LC	-
108	<i>Ferania sieboldii</i> (Schlegel, 1837)	Siebold's Mud Snake	LC	-
109	* <i>Homalopsis buccata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Linne's Water Snake	LC	-
Family: Pareidae Romer, 1956				
110	<i>Pareas monticola</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Montane Slug-eating Snake	LC	-
Family: Psammophiidae Bourgeois, 1968				
111	<i>Psammodynastes pulverulentus</i> (Boie, 1827)	Common Mock viper	LC	-
112	<i>Psammophis condanarus</i> (Merrem, 1820)	Sand Snake	LC	-
Family: Pythonidae Fitzinger, 1826				
113	<i>Python bivittatus</i> (Kuhl, 1820)	Burmese Python	VU	II

114	<i>*Python molurus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Indian Rock Python	NT	I
Family: Typhlopidae Merrem, 1820				
115	<i>Argyrophis diardii</i> (Schlegel, 1839)	Diard's Blindsnake	LC	-
116	<i>Indotyphlops braminus</i> (Daudin, 1803)	Brahminy Blindsnake	LC	-
117	<i>*Indotyphlops jerdoni</i> (Boulenger, 1890)	Jerdon's Blindsnake	LC	-
118	<i>*Indotyphlops porrectus</i> (Stoliczka, 1871)	Stoliczka's slender Blindsnake	LC	-
Family: Viperidae Oppel, 1811				
119	<i>Daboia russelii</i> (Shaw & Nodder, 1797)	Russell's Viper	LC	III
120	<i>Gloydius himalayanus</i> (Günther, 1864)	Himalayan Pitviper	LC	-
121	<i>Ovophis monticola</i> (Günther, 1864)	Mountain Pitviper	LC	-
122	<i>Protobothrops himalayanus</i> (Pan, Chettri, Yang, Jiang, Wang, Zhang, & Vogel, 2013)	Himalayan Pitviper	LC	-
123	<i>Protobothrops jerdonii</i> (Günther, 1875)	Jerdon's Pitviper	LC	-
124	<i>*Trimeresurus cf. albolabris</i>			
125	<i>*Trimeresurus erythrurus</i> (Cantor, 1839)	Red-tailed (Bamboo) Pitviper	LC	-
126	<i>Trimeresurus septentrionalis</i> (Kramer, 1977)	Nepal Pitviper	LC	-
127	<i>Trimeresurus tibetanus</i> (Huang, 1982)	Tibetan Pitviper	LC	-
ORDER: TESTUDINES				
Suborder: Cryptodira				
Family: Geoemydidae Theobald 1868				
128	<i>*Batagur dhongoka</i> (Gray, 1832)	Three-striped Roofed Turtle	CR	II
129	<i>*Batagur kachuga</i> (Gray, 1831)	Red-crowned Roofed Turtle	CR	II
130	<i>Cyclemys gemeli</i> (Fritz, Guicking, Auer, Sommer, Wink & Hundsdörfer, 2008)	Assam Leaf Turtle	NT	II
131	<i>*Geoclemys hamiltonii</i> (Gray, 1830)	Spotted Pond Turtle	EN	I
132	<i>Hardella thurjii</i> (Gray, 1831)	Crowned River Turtle	EN	II
133	<i>Melanochelys tricarinata</i> (Blyth, 1856)	Tricarinate Hill Turtle	EN	I

134	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i> (Schweigger, 1812)		Indian Black Turtle	LC	II
	134.1	<i>M. t. indopeninsularis</i> (Annandale, 1913)	Bengal Black Turtle	LC	II
135	<i>Morenia petersi</i> (Anderson, 1879)		Indian Eyed Turtle	EN	II
136	<i>Pangshura smithii</i> (Gray, 1863)		Brown Roofed Turtle	NT	II
	136.1	<i>P. s. pallidipes</i> (Moll, 1987)	Brown Roofed Turtle	NT	II
	136.2	<i>P. s. smithii</i> (Gray, 1863)	Pale-footed Roofed Turtle	NT	II
137	<i>Pangshura tecta</i> (Gray, 1830)		Indian Roofed Turtle	VU	I
138	<i>Pangshura tentoria</i> (Gray, 1834)		Indian Tent Turtle	LC	II
	138.1	<i>P. t. circumdata</i> (Mertens, 1969)	Pink-ringed Tent Turtle	LC	II
	138.2	<i>P. t. flaviventer</i> (Günther, 1864)	Yellow-bellied Tent Turtle	LC	II
Family: Testudinidae Batsch, 178					
139	<i>Indotestudo elongata</i> (Blyth, 1854)		Elongated Tortoise	CR	II
Family: Trionychidae Gray, 1825					
140	<i>Chitra indica</i> (Gray, 1830)		Indian Narrow-headed Softshell Turtle	EN	II
141	<i>Lissemys punctata</i> (Bonnaterre, 1789)		Indian Flapshell Turtle	VU	II
	141.1	<i>L. p. andersoni</i> (Webb, 1980)	Spotted Northern Indian Flapshell Turtle	VU	II
142	<i>Nilssononia gangetica</i> (Cuvier, 1825)		Indian Softshell Turtle	EN	I
143	<i>Nilssononia hurum</i> (Gray, 1830)		Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle	EN	I

Abbreviations of IUCN status:

DD - Data Deficient, LC - Least Concern, NT -Near Threatened, VU - Vulnerable, EN - Endangered, CR - Critically Endangered

The present updated list of amphibians and reptiles of Nepal accounts for 200 extant species (Tables 1 & 2). Amphibians are represented by 57 species belonging to 3 orders (55 anuran species, 1 caudata, and 1 gymnophiona), 8 families, and 22 genera. The reptiles consist of 143 species belonging to 3 orders, 20 families, and 71 genera; Crocodylians contain 2 species, Chelonians include 16 species, while Squamates comprise 125 species represented by Saurians with 41 species, and Ophidians, which are the most speciose taxa with 84 species. There is a very low level of endemism, with only 19 species endemic to Nepal. Also, the taxonomic status of several species recorded in Nepal remains uncertain (*Amolops* cf. *afghanus*, *Cyrtodactylus* cf. *collegalensis*, and *Trimeresurus* cf. *albolabris*), future research should focus on the integration of additional sources of evidence to determine whether the above-mentioned species fall within the intraspecific variation of formerly described species or they represent distinctive, new taxonomic units.

Although, there have been a large number of historical records and collections of specimens, there still exists some uncertainty regarding the true amphibian and reptile diversity of Nepal (Kästle et al., 2013).

With the advancement of molecular technology, new cryptic taxa are described at considerable speed and given the constant changes in taxonomy, it's crucial to update checklists regularly and discuss the existing taxonomic issues so that such information reflects the most current state of knowledge and are available for taxonomic researchers and conservation biologists alike. On the other hand, the record, on many described taxa such as *Draco maculatus* (Spotted Flying Dragon), *Cyrtodactylus bhupathyi* (Bhupathy's Bent-toed Gecko), *Cyrtodactylus himalayicus* (Himalaya Bent-toed Gecko), *Cyrtodactylus lawderanus* (Lawder's Bent-toed Gecko), and *Gerrhopilus oligolepis* (Wall's Worm Snake) within Nepal's borders, suggests that their presence in the country may be highly likely. Therefore, a comprehensive species checklist for Nepal is crucial to conserving its unique biodiversity, against the backdrop of massive global biodiversity loss (Salerno et al., 2021). With this study, we reveal the lack of biological data on many taxa within Nepal which makes it necessary to develop future research expeditions aimed at increasing our knowledge about the biology, ecology, and conservation status of undescribed species (Kästle et al., 2013; Khatiwada et al., 2017; Khatiwada, et al., 2021). Overall, we assume that the diversity of amphibians and reptiles of Nepal, as currently known, is underestimated. Available data on Nepalese amphibians and reptiles suggest that 27 species (13.92%) of amphibians and reptiles are categorized as globally threatened according to the IUCN Red Data List (IUCN, 2021).

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