

Predation on a *Tomopterna luganga* (Anura: Pyxicephalidae: Cacosterninae) tadpole by the larva of a water beetle (Dytiscidae: Dytiscinae) in Iringa, southern Tanzania

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Anurans often become the prey of invertebrates and particularly tadpoles seem to be frequently preyed upon by a number of invertebrate predators. These include, but are not limited to, spiders, belostomatid bugs, dragon- and damselfly larvae, and aquatic beetles and their larvae (see Wells, 2007 for recent review). On 5 December 2009, we observed a tadpole being consumed by the larva of a water beetle in a small, water filled rock pool in a dried up stream bed inside dense miombo woodland near Iringa, Iringa Region, Tanzania (07°49'47.9" S, 035°47'41.8"E; 1558m). The behavior was observed during a night search at around 23:00. Although the beetle larva and its prey were not collected, we photographed the successful predation by the beetle larva and collected a number of tadpoles from the same puddle. These tadpoles were similar in shape and color to the predated tadpole and we assume these to be conspecific. The collected tadpoles fit the description of *Tomopterna luganga* (Red Sand Frog) provided by Haas et al. (2006) and identification was subsequently confirmed by DNA barcoding of tadpoles and comparison to an adult voucher from the same locality (see Zimkus and Larson, 2011). The invertebrate predator was the larva of a diving beetle and most likely represented a larval *Cybister* sp. (Dytiscidae: Dytiscinae). The identification to genus level is, however, tentative as the diagnostic features of the clypeolabrum necessary to distinguish between dytiscine beetle larvae are not visible in the photograph.

Dytiscid beetle larvae are known predators of tadpoles (e.g. Wager, 1986; Channing et al., 2012; Ohba and Inantani, 2012), but to our knowledge this is the first recorded case of a dytiscine beetle larva preying on a *Tomopterna*.

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Figure 1. Tadpole of *Tomopterna luganga* as the prey of a dytiscine beetle larva near Iringa, southeastern Tanzania.

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