Amphibians play important roles in the food chains of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem (Bahangana 2004) and are widely considered to be useful indicators of ecosystem stress (e.g., Welsh and Ollivier 1998; Sheridan and Olson 2003). Furthermore, information on amphibian diversity is becoming increasingly important in the context of global amphibian declines (e.g., Kiesecker 2010).

Of the more than 8,000 currently recognized species of amphibians (Frost 2020), 413 occur in India (Khandekar et al. 2020) and 53 have been reported from Maharashtra.
Table 1. Anuran species in the Melghat Region, Maharashtra, India. Habitats: Cl = cultivated area, Fo = forest, Sp = seasonal pond, Ri = riparian area. Status (based on frequencies of encounters): C = common, U = uncommon, O = occasional, R = rare. Red List status: LC = Least concern. Localities (see also Fig. 1): I = Chikhaldara, II = Semadoh, III = Kolkhas, IV = Raipur, V = Makhala, VI = Chourakund, VII = Rangubeli, VIII = Tarubandha, IX = Dhakana, X = Dhargad, XI = Shahanur (Narnala).

| Family/Species          | Red List Status | Locations |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
|                         | Habitat         | Status    |
| **Bufonidae**           |                 | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X | XI |
| **Duttaphrynus melanostictus** | Cl,Fo C LC |  + + + + + + + + + + + |
| **Marbled Toad**        |                 |           |
| **Duttaphrynus stomaticus** | Cl,Fo C LC | — + + — + + + — + — + — |
| **Rough Dwarf Toad**    |                 |           |
| **Duttaphrynus scaber**  | Fo,Ri O LC     | — + + — + — + — — — — |
| **Dicroglossidae**      |                 |           |
| **Skittering Frog**     | Ri,Sp C LC    | + + + + + + + + — + — |
| **Indian Cricket Frog** |                 |           |
| **Fejervarya limnocharis** | Cl,Fo,Sp C LC | + + + + + + + + — + — |
| **Syhadra Frog**        |                 |           |
| **Minervarya syhadrensis** | Fo,Ri,Sp R LC | — + + — + + — — — — — |
| **Kerala Warty Frog**   |                 |           |
| **Minervarya keralensis** | Fo,Sp O LC | — + + — — — + — — — — |
| **Reddish Burrowing Frog** |          |           |
| **Minervarya rufescens** | Ri O LC | — + + — — — + — — — — |
| **Indian Burrowing Frog** |                 |           |
| **Sphaerotheca breviceps** | Cl,Fo,Sp C LC | + + + + + + + + — + — |
| **Roland’s Burrowing Frog** |          |           |
| **Sphaerotheca rolandae** | Cl,Fo,Sp R LC | — — — — + — — — — — — |
| **Dobson’s Burrowing Frog** |          |           |
| **Sphaerotheca dobsonii** | Cl,Fo,Sp R LC | — — — — + — — — — — — |
| **Indian Bullfrog**     |                 |           |
| **Hoplobatrachus tigrinus** | Cl,Fo,Sp,Ri C LC | + + + + + + + + + + + |
| **Jerdon’s Bullfrog**   |                 |           |
| **Hoplobatrachus crassus** | Fo U LC | — — — + — — — — — — — |
| **Microhylidae**        |                 |           |
| **Ornate Narrow-mouthed Frog** | Cl,Fo,Sp C LC | + + + + + + + + + + + |
| **Painted Balloon Frog** |                 |           |
| **Kaluana tapirobanica** | Fo,Sp U LC | + — — — — — — — — — |
| **Rhacophoridae**       |                 |           |
| **Common Indian Treefrog** |         |           |
| **Polypedates maculatus** | Cl,Fo,Sp C LC | + + + + + + + + + + + |
In Maharashtra, considerably more attention has been devoted to amphibians in the western parts of the state than to those in the Amravati District of the Vidarbha Region. Despite the fact that the Melghat Forest receives considerable rainfall and has consistently high humidity and low temperatures, providing ideal conditions for amphibian diversity, only two previous studies (Kamble 2005; Wagh et al. 2017) have addressed the amphibians of the Melghat Region. Herein we provide a comprehensive updated checklist of anurans from the that region.

The Melghat Area of the Amravati District consists of a succession of hills and valleys, which are extensions of the main Satpuda Range. The crests of this range attain an average elevation of about 1,000 m asl, with the highest peak (1,178 m) at Vairat near Chikaladara. The climate is tropical, with winter temperatures of 13–22 °C and summer temperatures of 23–46 °C. Annual rainfall ranges from 1,000 mm to 2,250 mm. Vegetation is Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest (Champion and Seth 1968) and the Sipna, Khapra, Khandu, Dolar, Gadga, and Chopan are the major rivers. They and many seasonal rivulets are tributaries of the westward-flowing Tapi River. The 3,970-km² Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR) is in the Melghat Forest (20°51'–21°46'N, 76°38'–77°33'E) of the Amravati and Akola Districts of Maharashtra (Fig. 1).

We conducted extensive rainy-season belt-transect surveys in the morning (0530–0830 h) and at night (1900–2200 h) at seven-day intervals from June 2016 to October 2018 in all available habitats (open land, streams, rivers, seasonal ponds, dense forest, and grasslands) at eleven localities in the MTR (Chikhaldara, Semadoh, Kolkhas, Raipur, Makhala, Chourakund, Rangubeli, Tarubandha, Dhakana, Dhargad, and Shahdanur [Narnala]; Fig. 1). We did not collect any specimens but photographed all possible individuals. We confirmed the identities of frogs using various diagnostic keys and descriptions in Das and Dutta (1998), Chanda (2002), Daniel (2002), Daniels (2005), Gururaja (2012), and Dinesh et al. (2015), in some instances with additional assistance from amphibian experts at the Zoological Survey of India.

We documented the presence of 16 anuran species in four families and nine genera (Table 1; Figs. 2–4). Not surprisingly, the most frequently encountered species (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus, Duttaphrynus stomaticus, Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis,* Fig. 2. Anuran species recorded from the Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, India: (A) Common Asian Toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*), (B) Marbled Toad (*Duttaphrynus stomaticus*), (C) Ferguson’s Toad (*Duttaphrynus scaber*), (D) Skittering Frog (*Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*), (E) Indian Cricket Frog (*Fejervarya limnocharis*), (F) Syhadra Frog (*Minervarya syhadrensis*), (G) Kerala Warty Frog (*Minervarya keralensis*), (H) Reddish Burrowing Frog (*Minervarya rufescens*), (I) Indian Burrowing Frog (*Sphaerotheca breviceps*).
Fejervarya limnocharis, Sphaerotheca breviceps, Hoplobatrachus tigerinus, Microhyla ornata, and Polypedates maculatus) generally were found at the most localities and usually in the greatest diversity of habitats. However, three rarely encountered species (Minervarya syhadrensis, Sphaerotheca rolandae, and Sphaerotheca dobsonii) were found in three of the four sampled habitat types.

Our results compare favorably with those of previous surveys. In his list of amphibians from the MTR, Kamble (2005) recorded eight species that correspond to those we most frequently encountered. Wagh et al. (2017) recorded 11 species from various habitats in the Amravati District, essentially those documented by Kamble (2005) plus two species we found to be uncommon (Hoplobatrachus crassus and Kaloula taprobanica) plus an unidentified species of Fejervarya (undoubtedly one of the species subsequently assigned to the genus Minervarya).

Although all of the anuran species we encountered in the Melghat Region are included on the IUCN Red List as being of least concern, local populations could be declining as a consequence of habitat destruction, alteration, and fragmentation, road kills, and the increasingly extensive use of pesticides and herbicides by local farmers in the Melghat.

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