

Scientific note

***Kaloula latidisca* – an addition to the amphibian fauna of Pulau Langkawi, Malaysia**

(Amphibia: Anura: Microhylidae)

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The distribution of *Kaloula latidisca* Chan, Grismer & Brown, 2014 is considered restricted to the Malay Peninsula, where the species is known from scattered localities in southern Myanmar, southern Thailand and northern Malaysia (Mulcahy et al. 2018, Gorin et al. 2024, Map of Life 2025). On the islands in the Andaman Sea, the species is known to occur in Thailand on Phuket (iNaturalist 2025, observed by Katarina Wilson) and probably on Tarutao Island (Nidup et al. 2013, as *K. baleata*). To date, only *Kaloula pulchra* was known to occur on Pulau Langkawi, Malaysia (Grismer et al. 2006).

During a holiday stay we observed *Kaloula latidisca* at the westernmost end of the grounds of the Berjaya Langkawi Resort, Kampung Teluk Burau, Pulau Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia, at 6.36261°N, 99.66112°E, ca. 10 m a.s.l., which apparently represents the first record of the species for this island. Between 14 and 25 August 2024 we repeatedly observed one to three individuals of *K. latidisca* calling from two small pools with vertical banks within a small artificial watercourse made of concrete and stones after heavy rainfalls (Fig. 1). The watercourse had a slight current during the day, but was stagnant at night. It is embedded in a garden-like area with paved trails and small houses (Fig. 2). The site is situated on a rocky slope within mature lowland dipterocarp-dominated forest with a cleared understory, small roads and cabins and is directly adjacent (<100 m) to the largely undisturbed forests of the southern slope of Mount Machinchang.

The identification of the frogs was based on the presence of broad and prominent finger discs, a grey-brown dorsum with indistinct markings and the presence of a conspicuous yellowish inguinal blotch, which resembles the type specimens from Gubir, Kedah, Malaysia (Fig. 1).

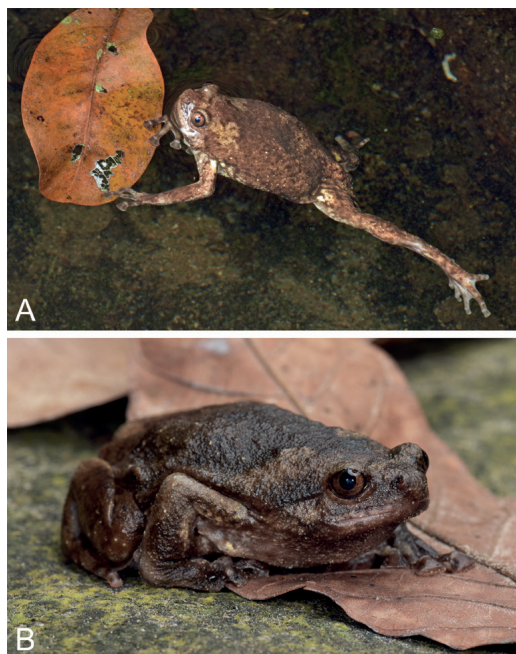


Fig. 1. *Kaloula latidisca* from Berjaya Resort, Pulau Langkawi, Malaysia. A. Male at breeding site (17 August 2024); B. presumably another male (14 August 2024).

Other anurans noticed near the water body were *Polypedates leucomystax* on adjacent bushes and rocks and *Microhyla* sp. calling from nearby herbaceous vegetation. *Kaloula pulchra* was also noted in a forest nearby but was never heard calling at that time.

The site was frequently visited by other herpetologists in previous years (T. Bader, pers. comm.) but

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Fig. 2. Calling site of *Kaloula latidisca* on the grounds of the Berjaya Langkawi Resort, Pula Langkawi.

K. latidisca was never observed there. This indicates that the species has an elusive, semi-fossorial lifestyle and is active only after periods of heavy rains, similar to that of other members of the *K. baleata* group (e.g. *Kaloula discordia*: Gorin et al. 2024). During our visit, precipitation was high, with pronounced daily heavy rainfalls.

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