

# First record of Dennys's Treefrog, *Zhangixalus dennysi* (Blanford, 1881), from Bolikhamxai Province, Laos

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*Zhangixalus dennysi* (Blanford, 1881) is a large treefrog of the family Rhacophoridae. It has been recorded from China (Lu et al., 2011; Kohler et al., 2024), Vietnam (Ziegler and Herrmann, 2000; Pham et al., 2017, 2020), Myanmar (restricted to the northern regions; Wilkinson et al., 2005; Zug, 2022), and Laos (Stuart, 2005; Stuart et al., 2024). In Laos, the species has only been reported from a single locality (Nakai-Nam Theun National Biodiversity Conservation Area, Khammouane Province; Stuart, 2005), with two specimens collected in 1998. In contrast, *Z. dennysi* has been reported in more than ten provinces in northern Vietnam, including in areas that border Laos (Nguyen

et al., 2009; Hoang et al., 2014; Pham et al., 2020; Dau et al., 2025). This discrepancy suggests that additional, undocumented sites of *Z. dennysi* are likely to exist in Laos. Here we report a new specimen of *Z. dennysi*, the first report of this species from Bolikhamxai Province and the third specimen from Laos.

We conducted visual encounter survey of amphibians and reptiles in Phonekham Village, Xaichamphone District, Bolikhamxai Province, Laos (Fig. 1) in September 2025. The survey area is a disturbed mixed forest, consisting of forested areas, grassland, and paddy fields. On 4 September 2025 we found a frog preliminarily identified as *Z. dennysi* on the side of a road separating grassland and forest (18.6151°N, 105.0483°E, elevation 614 m). The frog was on a dead bamboo stem near a small pond (Fig. 2A). After in situ photography, the frog was caught by hand and subsequently euthanized following the Regulation on Animal Experimentation at Kyoto University (certificate number: 24–A–14). Perimortem photographs were taken with a tag and a scale for reference (Fig. 2B, C). Size, shape, colouration, and taxonomically important characters were recorded to facilitate species identification. Snout–vent length was measured on the dorsal photograph using ImageJ (Schneider et al., 2012). The specimen and tissue sample have been deposited in the collection at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, National University of Laos (specimen number FES.RA.25.006).

The frog had vocal sac openings and was therefore identified as a male. The following characteristics were recognized: size large, > 100 mm SVL (measured as 104.47 mm); uniform emerald-green dorsal colour before preservation (Fig. 2B); incomplete webbing on fingers (Fig. 2B, C); extended webbing on toes, very narrow near the end of the fourth toe on each side (Fig. 2B); no spots on the webbing (Fig. 2B). These characteristics matched the original description of *Z. dennysi* (Blanford, 1881). In addition, the green colour of the throat (Fig. 2C) agrees with a previous report (Pham et al., 2017).

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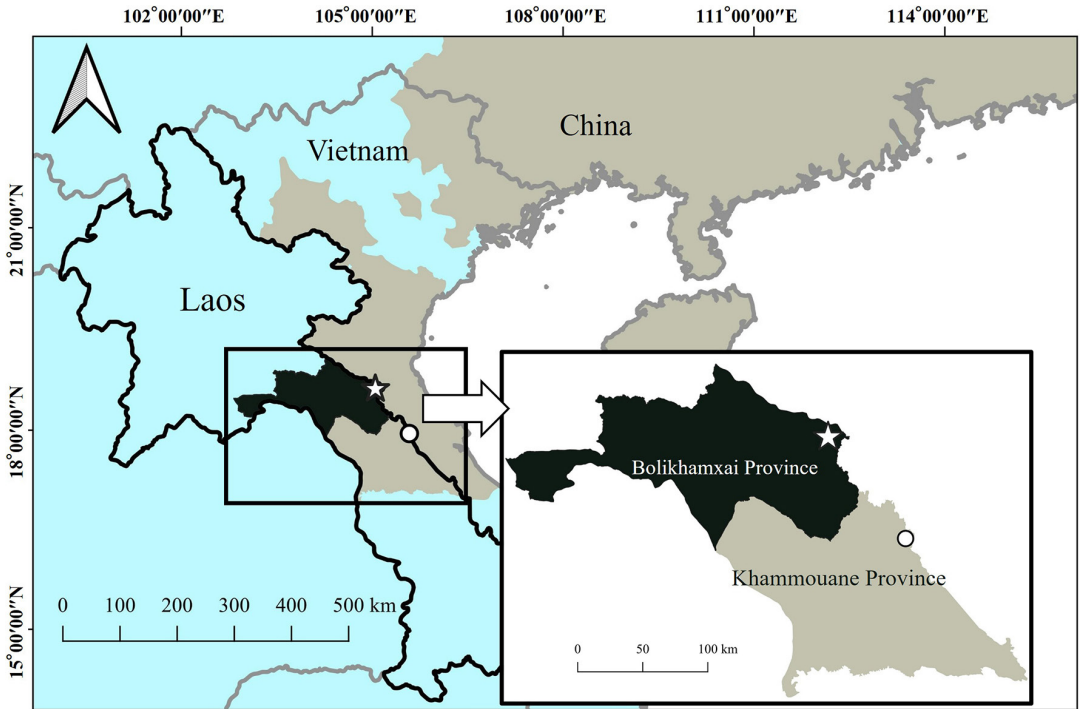
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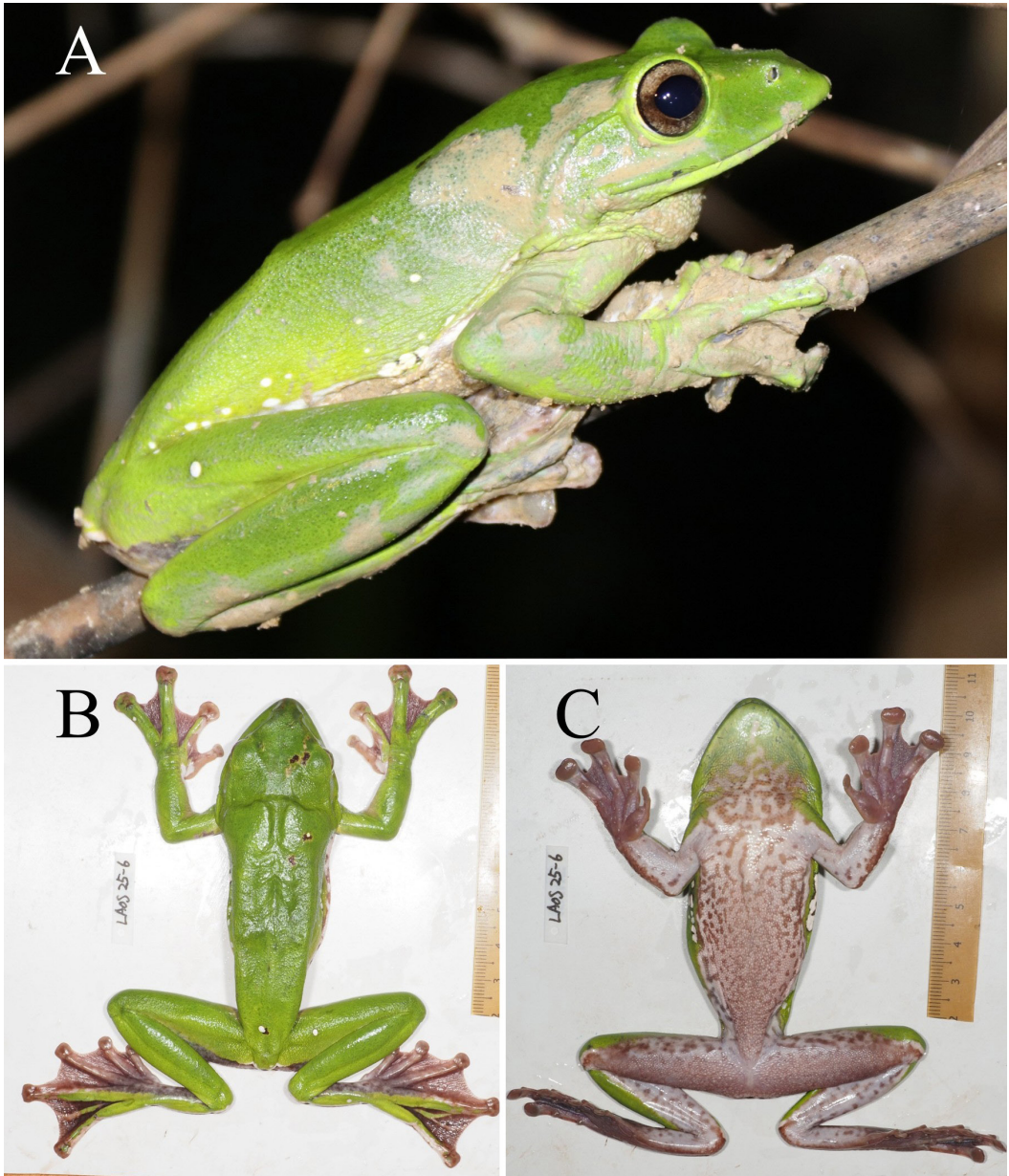
**Figure 1.** Range of *Zhangixalus dennysi* (grey area) in two provinces of Laos and political divisions of surrounding countries. Provinces in Vietnam were reorganized in 2025, and the range shown here is based on provincial boundaries prior to reorganization. The area shaded in black is Bolikhamxai Province, Laos, with the locality of the new record identified by the star (☆). The circle (○) indicates the locality of the other report of the species (Stuart, 2005). This map was modified from SimpleMaps (<https://simplemaps.com/gis/country/la>) and processed in QGIS 3.10.

The specimen can be distinguished from the three *Zhangixalus* species occurring in Laos as follows (Stuart et al., 2024): from *Z. feae* (Boulenger, 1893) absence of “golden streaks” on each side from the tip of the snout to the shoulder (Boulenger, 1893); from *Z. melanoleucus* Brakels et al., 2023 by having an SVL more than twice of what Brakels et al. (2023) reported; and from *Z. pachyproctus* Yu et al., 2019 by the shape of the vent, which protrudes in males of *Z. pachyproctus* (Yu et al., 2019). We were therefore able to identify FES.RA.25.006 as a member of *Z. dennysi*. This report is the second country record of *Z. dennysi* in Laos and the first for Bolikhamxai Province. According to Stuart et al. (2024), no other species of the genus *Zhangixalus* have so far been recorded from Bolikhamxai Province.

Our record extends the known range of *Z. dennysi* in Laos by approximately 70 km northwards from the locality of the previous record. However, our understanding of the range of *Z. dennysi* in and around

Laos is still incomplete. To the best of our knowledge, records of the species from localities in Indochina further south than Bolikhamxai Province have been limited to Phong Nha-Kẻ Bàng National Park in Quảng Trị Province and Hà Tĩnh Province, Vietnam (Ziegler and Herrmann, 2000; Ziegler, 2002), and Khammouane Province, Laos (Stuart, 2005). Additional surveys are required to more accurately clarify the distribution and conservation status of this species in the southern part of its range.

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**Figure 2.** (A) *Zhangixalus dennysi* (FES.RA.25.006) photographed in situ on a dead bamboo stem in Bolikhamxai Province, Laos (B) Dorsal and (C) ventral views of the specimen after euthanasia. Photos by Yukio Ichioka (A) and Kanto Nishikawa (B, C).

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