

Food, feeding chronology and seasonal changes in the diet of green frog *Euphlyctis hexadactylus* (Lesson, 1834)

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ABSTRACT

Metamorphs, juveniles and adults of green frog *Euphlyctis hexadactylus* (Lesson 1834) were collected from the permanent water bodies at Wedamulla, Kelaniya to study the food and feeding habits of various life history stages.

The collected tadpoles and adults were killed immediately and gut contents were analyzed. The analysis of gut contents showed that about 80% of the diet by volume consisted aquatic leafy matter, mostly *Hydrilla* and *Ipomea aquatica*. Rest consisted aquatic insects, shrimps, molluscs and small vertebrates. Before the reproductive season, adult females consumed variety of invertebrates and some small vertebrates. Large frogs take large animal prey and more prey types when compared to small frogs.

E. hexadactylus has a feeding periodicity with more intensive feeding at dawn. Prey diversity was generally high during wet months. The herbivorous larva metamorphoses to an insectivorous frog and a second dietary switch from insectivory to folivory occurs in adults.