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Assesment of Anuran diversity and microhabitats in various wetland ecosystems of Nagapattinam district, Tamilnadu

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Wetlands are the most productive ecosystems, recognized globally for its vital role in sustaining a wide array of biodiversity. In India, these are endangered by inattention and lack of appreciation for their role. In the wetland environment, the anurans are one of the ecological indicator species. They are integral components of many ecosystems and serve as excellent bio-indicators. Information of anuran species richness and diversity is becoming increasingly important in the context of global anuran decline. One-third of 6,449 anurans species worldwide are threatened besides habitat loss, overexploitation or introduction of new species. The decline and disappearance of anuran population in the wetlands are influenced by several factors such as climatic changes, indiscriminate use of fertilizers, pesticides, invasion of exotic plants. Time constrained Visual Encounter Survey method involves systematic search of an area. A total of 9 species of anurans were recorded during the present study in Nagapattinam district. They are belonging to seven genus and four families of Anurans. Based on the microhabitat study, it is inferred that most of the anurans prefer the water bodies and edge of the water as a micro habitat. In the present study *Hoplobatrachus crassus, Fejervarya limnocharis* and *Microhyla ornata* were encountered in all types of microhabitats of wetland when compared to other anurans.

KEY WORDS
. Wetland, Anurans, Micro habitats, GPS, VES Method.