

An Asian species of frog (*Kaloula pulchra*, Microhylidae) intercepted at Perth International Airport, Australia

Michael J. Tyler^{1,2}, Tamra F. Chapman³

¹ Environmental Biology, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia 5005, Australia

² Corresponding author; e-mail: michael.tyler@adelaide.edu.au

³ Species and Communities Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Bentley, Western Australia 6983, Australia

Key data: *Kaloula pulchra*; Microhylidae; banded bullfrog; individual arrival; Australia. Perth International Airport; 21 July 2005; collected by Qantas freight staff; currently alive (fig. 1).

A live specimen of the microhylid frog *Kaloula pulchra* was found by cargo handlers at Perth International Airport and handed to a Western Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service officer. The frog was found in or near an air container at the Qantas Cargo area. It is not known from which aircraft, cargo or country the frog originated.

This species is not known to have been recorded in Australia, but it has been accidentally imported into New Zealand. A single live specimen was accidentally introduced in cargo containing a garden statue from Vietnam and intercepted at a wharf (Gill et al., 2001).

Kaloula pulchra is distributed over a 2,283,959 km² area from Nepal and north-eastern India through Myanmar and Thailand to southern China, Singapore, Sumatra, Borneo, and Sulawesi (Inger and Lian, 1996). It inhabits a wide range of habitats, including wetlands, riverbanks, forests and residential, agricultural and urban areas (IUCN et al., 2004).

Kaloula pulchra meets many of the criteria for a vertebrate pest according to the contemporary Australian Risk Assessment model (see Bomford, 2003). Because of its close association with humans (Frost, 2004) it has already been introduced and established in Singapore, Borneo and Celebes (Inger, 1966; Lim and Lim, 1996; Iskandar, 1998). At present, the Cane Toad *Bufo marinus* is the only exotic amphibian known to have become established as a feral pest in Australia. The accidental importation of a live *K. pulchra* into Australia highlights the need for



Figure 1. The male Banded Bullfrog, *Kaloula pulchra* that was accidentally introduced into Australia via Perth International Airport.

vigilance, especially since the origin of the frog could not be established on this occasion.

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