

CONTENTS

	PAGE
ENGLISH ABSTRACT	ii
THAI ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Objectives	2
1.3 Study scope	2
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	3
2.1 Amphibian biodiversity crisis	3
2.2 Influence of environmental factors on anuran richness and abundance	3
2.3 Emerging infectious disease (<i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i> , chytrid fungus)	4
3. METHODOLOGY	7
3.1 Study area	7
3.2 Sampling methods	9
3.2.1 Anuran survey	9
3.2.2 Environmental factors	9
3.2.3 <i>Bd</i> sample collection	12
3.2.3.1 Extraction of <i>Bd</i> DNA from swab samples	12
3.2.3.2 Conventional PCR assay	13

	PAGE	
3.3	Data analysis	13
3.3.1	Anuran richness and relative abundance	13
3.3.2	Species composition	14
3.3.3	Relationship between species richness and abundance and environmental factors	15
4.	RESULTS	17
4.1	Environmental factors	17
4.1.1	Determination of season	17
4.1.2	Stream characteristics	18
4.1.3	Other environmental factors	21
4.2	Anuran richness and abundance along elevation gradients	22
4.2.1	Species composition	28
4.2.2	Relationships between species richness and abundance and environmental factors	30
4.3	<i>Bd</i> detection	35
5.	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	38
5.1	Relationship between species richness and abundance and environmental factors along elevation gradients	38
5.1.1	Temporal variation	40
5.1.2	Species-specific patterns and species of concern	42
5.2	<i>Bd</i> detection	45
5.3	Conclusion	46
	REFERENCES	48
	APPENDICES	59
	APPENDIX A NUMBER OF SPECIES AND ABUNDANCE OF ANURANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES	60

	PAGE
APPENDIX B PHOTOGRAPHS OF ANURAN FOUND IN THIS STUDY	68
APPENDIX C ANALYTICAL METHODS	72
CURRICULUM VITAE	73

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE	
4.1	Morisita's similarity index	22
4.2	Total survey effort (hr), number of species and observed species (total observed frogs), Shannon - Wiener Index (H'), mean relative abundance (observed frogs/hr) and total biomass (kg) along elevation from November 2012 to October 2013	26
4.3	Correlation of environmental parameters with the anuran community ordination and ordination projection for each axis. Estimations of P values are based on 1000 permutations and are listed as *** $P < 0.001$, ** $P < 0.01$ and * $P < 0.05$	30
4.4	A set of generalized linear mixed models explaining the effect of environmental factors on anuran species richness and abundance	31
4.5	Estimates of coefficients derived from model averaging (averaged across all models that contain such variables) and unconditional SE and its 95% confidence interval	32
4.6	Amphibian species sampled for <i>Bd</i> along the Huai Chang Tai stream in the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary September - October 2013	36
A.1	Environmental factors among elevations at the Huai Chang Tai stream from November 2012 to October 2013	60
A.2	Number of observed frogs, species distribution, each species' snout-vent length (SVL; mean \pm SD; cm) and biomass (mean \pm SD; g) across elevations in the Huai Chang Tai stream from November 2012 to October 2013	62

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
2.1 Map of Southeast Asia showing countries where <i>Bd</i> has been detected (light grey). The dark grey region marks the location of the study area in the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, and the filled circle is where <i>Bd</i> was first detected in the wild in Thailand	6
3.1 Map showing the topography (grey contours) and the stream (black line) of the study area in the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary	8
3.2 Diagram of stream segments with vegetation plots and checkpoints at each elevation	11
4.1 Climate diagram at Khao Nang Rum wildlife research station during the study period from November 2012 to October 2013	17
4.2 Stream characteristics at 550 msl	18
4.3 Stream characteristics at 700 msl	19
4.4 Stream characteristics at 900 msl	20
4.5 Stream characteristics at 1100 msl	21
4.6 Three distinct distribution patterns of relative abundance at four elevations (the example from (A) <i>Xenophrys parva</i> , (B) <i>Leptolalax pelodytoides</i> and (C) <i>Limnonectes taylori</i>)	24
4.7 Comparison of (A) species richness (Kruskal - Wallis, $p < 0.01$), (B) number of observed frogs (Kruskal - Wallis, $p < 0.01$) (C) diversity (vertical bars are 95% confidence intervals) at four elevations along the Huai Chang Tai stream from November 2012 to October 2013	25
4.8 Comparison of estimated number of species across elevations by rarefaction curve with 95% confidence interval	27
4.9 Variation in anuran species composition in stream transects at four elevations and plots in community space using non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) ordination (significant correlations of environmental parameters with axes; *** $P < 0.001$ and * $P < 0.05$)	29
4.10 Estimates of coefficients derived from model averaging of the number of species and abundance and their 95% confidence interval	34

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
4.11	Bands of DNA fragments from 5 of the 50 sampled anuran species, collected skin swabs and amplified with primers Bd1a and Bd2a in a PCR assay	37
5.1	Stream characteristics at one checkpoint at 550 msl during the dry (left) and wet (right) season	41
5.2	The presence of a natural check dam at one checkpoint at 550 msl during the dry season (right) compared to the wet season (left)	41
5.3	Strong flows of water along stream segment at 900 msl during the rainy season	41
A.1	Air temperature (24 hrs. data) along the stream transects at each elevation during April 2013	67