

Project Update: November 2008

Summary: Visual encounter rates of invasive cane toads (*Chaunus (bufo) marinus*) was high in the field site (one) that had access to both cane toads and Fijian ground frog (*Platymantis vitianus*). It was observed that *P. vitianus* was usually docile when one or a group of large cane toads (Figure 1.0) were found near them.

The field site (two) that had no access (artificial barrier) to cane toads showed the presence of more vitellogenic females (those with visible underbelly eggs) throughout August to November (Figure 2.0) in comparison to field site one.

Frogllets and metamorphs of *P. vitianus* that were born during the last breeding season were observed within natural substrates such as rotting logs and coconut husks (Figure 3.0). The number of froglets observed per month was higher in the second field site. Froglets of cane toad were also observed within the natural substrates during these months however we require further detailed monitoring to see if there is any competition between cane toads and *P. vitianus* froglets in terms of micro-habitat space and food.



Figure 1.0 showing the group of cane toads (n=5) and a single Fijian ground frog (*Platymantis vitianus*) indicated by red dashed circle. Photo was taken by Edward Narayan during field survey at 2200 hr on Viwa Island.



Figure 2.0 showing the underbelly eggs observed when a vitellogenic female *P. vitianus* was turned on its underbelly and a torch was shined from beneath in a dark room. Photo was taken by Edward Narayan at a field station on Viwa Island.



Figure 3.0 showing froglet (12mm snout-vent length) of *P. vitianus* observed within rotting log on Viwa Island at the field site 2.