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## REPTILIAN FAUNA OF NAGARJUNASAGAR SRISAILAM TIGER RESERVE, ANDHRA PRADESH

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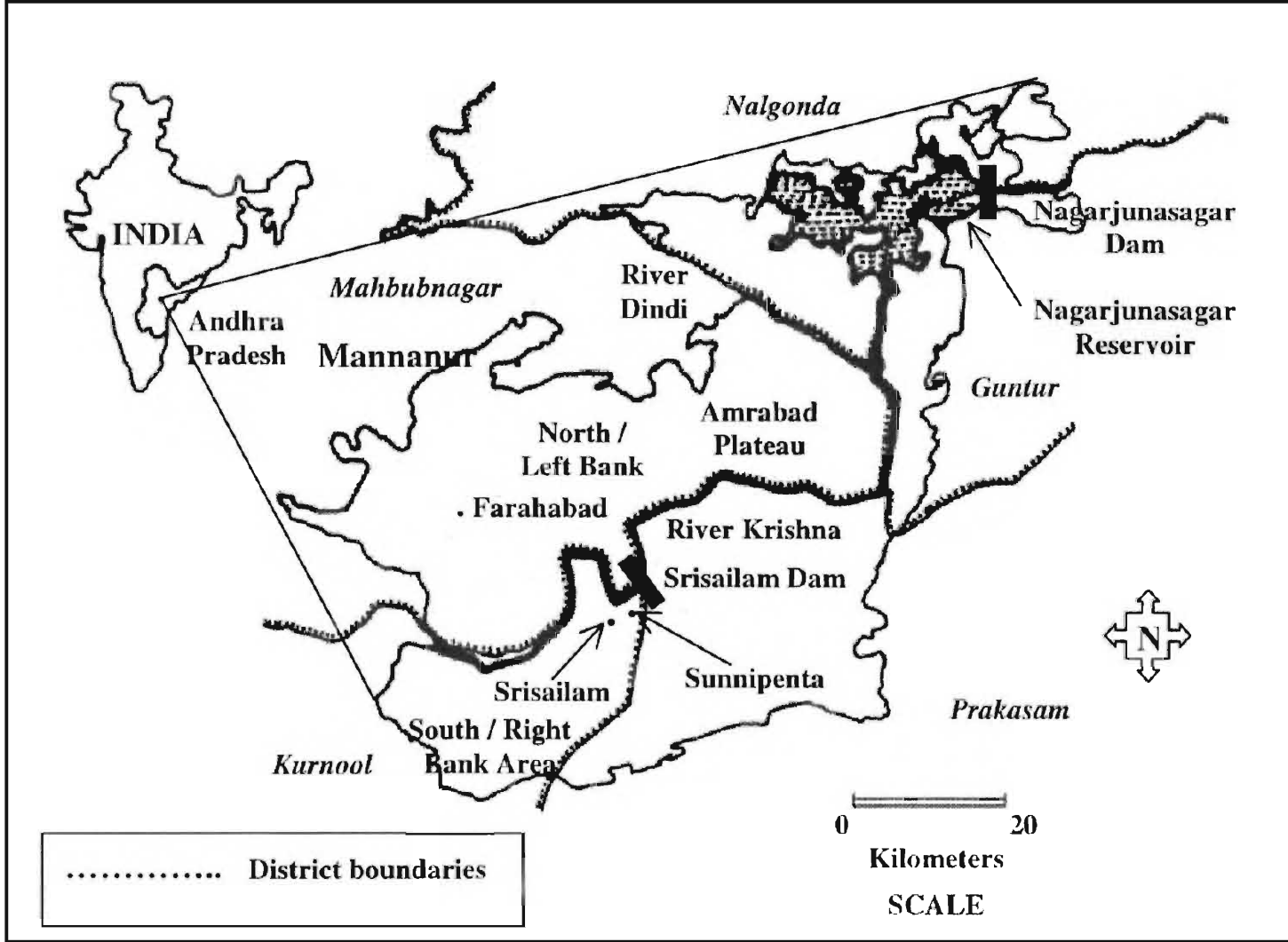
### INTRODUCTION

The Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (15°53'–16°43' N and 78°30'–79°28' E) spanning an area of 3,568 sq km (with a core area of 1,200 sq km) located in Andhra Pradesh is the largest of the Project Tiger sites in India (Fig. 1). Topographically the Reserve is located in the biodiversity rich Nallamala Hills (Srinivasulu and Nagulu, 2002) with a rich herpetofaunal diversity too (Srinivasulu and Das, *in press*). The river Krishna flows from East to West through the Reserve, dividing the area into a larger Northern bank and a smaller Southern Bank. The vegetation of the Reserve is primarily of Southern tropical dry deciduous forest type (Champion and Seth, 1968; Srinivasulu, 2001) characterized by species such as *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Hardwickia binata*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Acacia nilotica sundra*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Madhuca indica* etc. On the ground, the wide diversity of forest sub-types are clearly noticed including patches of almost pure bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*, *Dendrocalamus strictus*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*) plantation, Teak Mixed forest, Grasslands, and Riverine habitats among others.

At the instance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India initiated faunal inventorisation of Protected Areas Programme, the Freshwater Biological Station, Zoological Survey of India, Hyderabad was assigned the task of inventorizing the faunal diversity of the Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve. This paper presents the details of reptilian diversity that is found in the Tiger Reserve based on the observations carried out by the authors since 1995, collections made during June 2003 and also referral specimens collected from the Tiger Reserve

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deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, Freshwater Biology Station, Hyderabad and ERM Labs, Sunnipenta, Kurnool district. The reptilian fauna of selected areas of the Tiger Reserve has been documented by Sharma (1969, 1971, 1976), Sanyal *et al.* (1993), Rao *et al.* (2005) and Srinivasulu and Das (in press). This paper presents an updated list of reptiles known from Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve. The remarks on distribution include the specific localities in the Reserve and elsewhere and their current IUCN status such as EN – Endangered; Vu – Vulnerable; LRnT – Lower Risk near Threatened; LRLc – Lower Risk Least concern; DD – Data Deficient. The criterion on which the IUCN Status is based is provided in parenthesis.

## SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order CROCODILIA

Family CROCODYLIDAE

I. CROCODILES

1. *Crocodylus palustris* Lesson, 1831

**Marsh Crocodile**

1831. *Crocodylus palustris* R. P. Lesson. *Bull. Sci. Nat. Geol.* **25** : 121.

*Material examined* : None.

*Distribution* : Nagarjunasagar Reservoir, Ethipothala Falls.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India; and Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Iran.

*Remarks* : Common. Found in rivers, lakes, dams and mangrove areas. The occurrence of this species from the Tiger Reserve is based on Srinivas *et al.* (1999).

*Status* : Vu (B1, 2a,b,c,d,e).

Order TESTUDINES

Family BATAGURIDAE

II. TURTLES and TORTOISES

2. *Melanochelys trijuga* (Schweigger, 1812)

**Indian Black Turtle**

1812. *Emys trijuga* A. F. Schweigger. *Prod. Monogr. Chel.* : 310.

*Material examined* : None.

*Distribution* : Nagarjunasagar Reservoir, Pulicheruvu, Peddacheruvu, Kotalcheruvu.

*Elsewhere* : Found distributed throughout northeastern and peninsular India; Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, and Thailand.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Prefers lentic waters with aquatic vegetation but is also found in rivers and lakes. Based on sightings during 1997-1998.

*Status* : LRnT

### 3. *Pangshura tentoria* (Gray, 1834)

#### Indian Tent Turtle

1834. *Emys tentoria* J. E. Gray. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, **1834**(2) : 54.

*Material examined* : None.

*Distribution* : Maddimadugu, Padra, Nagarjunasagar Reservoir, Pecheruvu.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, and Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Common. Prefers lotic habitats that are slow-moving and puddles near rivers. Based on sightings during 1996-1998.

*Status* : LRnT.

#### Family TESTUDINIDAE

### 4. *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff, 1795)

#### Indian Star Tortoise

1795. *Testudo elegans* J. D. Schoepff. *Hist. Test.* **3** : 111; Pl. XXV.

*Material examined* : One example in ERM Labs, Sunnipenta (Reg. No. ERM-5a).

*Distribution* : Many locations in foothills along agriculture fields.

*Elsewhere* : Distributed along northwestern, southwestern and southeastern tracts of India; eastern Pakistan, northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Found in scrub forests and near agriculture fields. First reported from the Nallamala Hills by Subba Rao *et al.* (1994).

*Status* : Vu (A1, a, c, d).

#### Family TRIONYCHIDAE

### 5. *Aspideretes gangeticus* (Cuvier, 1825)

#### Indian Softshell Turtle

1825. *Trionyx gangeticus* G. L. C. F. D. Cuvier. *Recherch Ossemens Foss.* **5** : 203.

*Material examined* : One example in ZSI, Kolkata (Reg. No. 21238, from Pullaredygudem, Guntur district, 2.9.1962, coll. by B. Nath).

*Distribution* : Peddavagu, near Ethipothala Falls.

*Elsewhere* : India; Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Waterbodies, streams and rivers.

*Status* : Vu (A1 a, c, d).

#### 6. *Aspideretes leithii* (Gray, 1872)

##### **Leith's Softshell Turtle**

1872. *Trionyx leithii* J. E. Gray. *Ann. & Mag. nat. Hist. ser. 4*, **10** : 334.

*Material examined* : One example in ZSI, Kolkata (Reg. No. 21403, from Peddavagu River, Guntur district, 20.10.1963, coll. by B. Nath).

*Distribution* : Peddavagu, near Ethipothala Falls.

*Elsewhere* : Endemic to India.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Found in waterbodies, streams and rivers.

*Status* : Vu (A1b).

#### 7. *Lissemys punctata* (Bonnaterre, 1789)

##### **Indian Flapshell Turtle**

1789. *Testudo punctata* M. Bonnaterre. *Tableau Encycl. Method. Nat.* : 30.

*Material examined* : None.

*Distribution* : Peddacheruvu, Ethipothala Falls and Peddavagu.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India; Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and northern Myanmar.

*Remarks* : Common. Found in waterbodies, streams and rivers. Based on sightings during 1996-1998. Sanyal *et al.* (1993) reported presence of a specimen of this taxon in ZSI, Kolkata bearing collection detail agreeing with that of *Aspideretes gangeticus* (Cuvier, 1825). Our study confirms the presence of *Aspideretes gangeticus* (Cuvier, 1825) in the National Zoological Collection, but not that of *Lissemys punctata* (Bonnaterre, 1789) as purported by Sanyal *et al.* (1993).

*Status* : LRnT.

Order SQUAMATA

Suborder SAURIA

III. LIZARDS

Family AGAMIDAE

8. *Calotes rouxii* (Duméril & Bibron, 1837)

**Roux's Forest Lizard**

1837. *Calotes rouxii* A.-M.-C. Duméril & G. Bibron. *Erp. Gén.* **4** : 407.

*Material examined* : Two examples (one each from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta [Reg. No. ERM-10a] and FBS, ZSI, Hyderabad [Reg. No. ZSI/FBS/N/1170]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Endemic to India.

*Remarks* : Common. Found mostly on the rocky outcrops in open and scrub forests, and agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnT.

9. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin, 1802)

**Indian Garden Lizard**

1802. *Agama versicolor* F.-M. Daudin. *Hist. nat. Rept.* **3** : 395; Pl. XLIV.

*Material examined* : Many examples [1 ex. in ERM Labs, Sunnipenta (ERM-12a); 2 ex. in ZSI, Hyderabad (ZSI/FBS/N/1165,1169)] and several examples from ZSI, Kolkata (approximately 31 collected from entire Reserve by B. Nath and I. N. Malgi).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India; Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Abundant. Found mostly on rocky outcrops in open and scrub forests, and agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnT.

10. *Psammophilus blanfordanus* (Stoliczka, 1871)

**Blanford's Rock Agama**

1871. *Charasia blanfordana* F. Stoliczka. *Proc. Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, **1871**(9) : 194.

*Material examined* : Four examples in ZSI, Kolkata (2 ex. [Reg. No. 21436] from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 29.9.63, coll. by B. Nath; 2 ex. [Reg. No. 24685] from Amrabad, Mahbubnagar district, 19.1.88, coll. by D.P. Sanyal).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Endemic to India in peninsular region.

*Remarks* : Common. Found mostly on rocky outcrops in open and scrub forests.

*Status* : Not Assessed.

11. *Psammophilus dorsalis* (Gray in Griffith & Pidgeon, 1831)

**South Indian Rock Agama**

1831. *Agama dorsalis* J. E. Gray in : E. Griffith & E. Pidgeon. *Class Reptilia*, **9** : 56.

*Material examined* : Two examples (one each from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta [Reg. No. ERM-11a] and ZSI, Kolkata [Reg. No. 21291] from Vijaypuri South, Guntur district, 22.8.62, coll. by B. Nath).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve, very common in north of River Krishna areas.

*Elsewhere* : Endemic to India.

*Remarks* : Common. Found mostly on rocky outcrops in open and scrub forests.

*Status* : LRnT.

12. *Sitana ponticeriana* Cuvier, 1829

**Fan-throated Lizard**

1829. *Sit.* (= *Sitana*) *ponticeriana* G. J.-L.-N.-F. D. Cuvier. *Reg. Nat.*, **2** : 43.

*Material examined* : Many examples (one example from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta [Reg. No. ERM-9a]; three examples from ZSI, Hyderabad [Reg. No. ZSI/FBS/N/1166, 1170, 1171] and several examples from ZSI, Kolkata [approximately 59 examples collected from entire Reserve by B. Nath, I. N. Maligi and D. P. Sanyal]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India; Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Abundant. Rocky outcrops in open and scrub forests, and agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

Family CHAMAELEONIDAE

13. *Chamaeleo zeylanicus* Laurenti, 1768

**Indian Chamaeleon**

1768. *Chamaeleo zeylanicus* J. N. Laurenti. *Syn. Rept.* : 46.

*Material examined* : One example (Reg. No. ERM-13a) from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India; Sri Lanka and eastern Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Common. Open and scrub forests, and agricultural fields.

*Status* : Vu (A1a,c).

Family GEKKONIDAE

14. *Hemidactylus brookii* (Gray, 1845)

**Brooke's House Gecko**

1845. *Hemidactylus brookii* J. E. Gray. *Cat. Lizards British Mus.* : 153.

*Material examined* : Many examples [(one example [Reg. No. ERM-2a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta; one example [Reg. No. ZSI/FBS/N/1174] from ZSI, Hyderabad) and several examples from ZSI, Kolkata (approximately 13 examples collected from entire Reserve by B. Nath, D. P. Sanyal, K. Reddaiah and A. K. Mondal)].

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Abundant. Open forests, old temples, also human commensal, found in houses and other dilapidated man-made structures.

*Status* : LRLc.

15. *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* Rüppell, 1835

**Yellow-bellied House Gecko**

1835. *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* E. Rüppell. *Neue Wirbelth.-Fauna Abyss., Amph.* **18** : Pl. 6; Fig. 2.

*Material examined* : Two examples (one each from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta [Reg. No. ERM-3a] and ZSI, Hyderabad [ZSI/FBS/N/1173]).

*Distribution* : Few localities in the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Found mostly in northern and eastern India; and southern Asia, Middle East and northern Africa.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Human commensal, found in houses and other man-made structures.

*Status* : LRLc.

16. *Hemidactylus frenatus* Duméril & Bibron, 1836

**South Asian House Gecko**

1836. *Hemidactylus frenatus* A.-M.-C. Duméril & G. Bibron. *Erp. Gén.* **3** : 366.



*Material examined* : Two examples (one each from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta [Reg. No. ERM-30a] and ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 23700) from Mannanur, Mahbubnagar district, 15.2.79, coll. by A.K. Mondal]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Found throughout southern India; and introduced *Elsewhere*.

*Remarks* : Common. Open forests, old temples, also human commensal, found in houses and other dilapidated man-made structures.

*Status* : LRLc.

17. *Hemidactylus giganteus* Stoliczka, 1871

**Giant South Indian Tree Gecko**

1871. *Hemidactylus giganteus* F. Stoliczka. *Proc. Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, **1871**(9) : 193.

*Material examined* : Many examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-1a] from ERM Lab, Sunnipenta; two examples [Reg. No. ZSI/FBS/N/1167, 1168] from ZSI, Hyderabad; and two examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21411) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 1.10.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21412) from Siddler Hill, Guntur district, 11.11.63, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Few localities in the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Endemic to India.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Open forests, old temples, and other dilapidated man-made structures.

*Status* : LRnT.

18. *Hemidactylus leschenaultii* Duméril & Bibron, 1836

**Bark Gecko**

1836. *Hemidactylus leschenaultii* A.-M.-C. Duméril & G. Bibron. *Erp. Gén.* **3** : 364.

*Material examined* : Few examples [one example [Reg. No. ERM-4a] from ERM Lab, Sunnipenta and a few examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 23693) from Mannanur, Mahbubnagar district, 13.2.79, coll. by A.K. Mondal; 4 ex. [Reg. No. 24510] from Srisailem, Kurnool district, 6.11.86, coll. by D.P. Sanyal and B. Dasgupta]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India; and Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Open forests, old temples, also human commensal, found in houses and other dilapidated man-made structures.

*Status* : LRLc.

19. *Hemidactylus reticulatus* Beddome, 1870**Reticulated Gecko**

1870. *Hemidactylus reticulatus* R. H. Beddome. *Madras Monthly J. Med. Sci.* 1 : 33.

*Material examined* : Many examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-17a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and several examples from ZSI, Kolkata [approximately 29 examples collected from entire Reserve by B. Nath and I. N. Malgi]).

*Distribution* : Few localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Endemic to India. Murthy (1986) reported this gecko from Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Rocky outcrops in open and scrub forests.

*Status* : LRnt.

20. *Hemidactylus triedrus* (Daudin, 1802)**Termite Hill Gecko**

1802. *Gecko triedrus* F.-M. Daudin. *Hist. nat. Rept.* 4 : 155.

*Material examined* : Many examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-7a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta; two examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21239) from Vijaypuri North, Nalgonda district, 31.7.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 24509) from Srisailam, Kurnool district, 6.11.86; coll. by D.P. Sanyal and B. Dasgupta]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Widespread in India; Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

## Family LACERTIDAE

21. *Ophisops jerdoni* (Blyth, 1853)**Jerdon's Snake-eyed Lacerta**

1853. *Ophisops Jerdoni* E. Blyth. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, 22 : 653.

*Material examined* : Many examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-18a] from ERM Lab, Sunnipenta; three examples [Reg. No. ZSI/FBS/N/1176-1178] from ZSI, Hyderabad and several examples from ZSI, Kolkata [approximately 26 examples collected from the entire Reserve by B. Nath, D. P. Sanyal and I. N. Malgi]). Plentiful in the Reserve.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Western and central India; and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Abundant. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : DD.

22. *Ophisops leschenaultii* (Milne-Edwards, 1829)

**Leschenault's Snake-eyed Lacerta**

1829. *Lacerta leschenaultii* H. Milne-Edwards. *Ann. Sci. nat.* **16** : 86; Pl. VI; Fig. 9.

*Material examined* : Few examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21296) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 28.7.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21297) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 28.7.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21438) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 29.9.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21439) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 2.10.63, coll. by B. Nath].

*Distribution* : Northern dry areas of Tiger Reserve near Nagarjunasagar.

*Elsewhere* : India.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

23. *Ophisops minor* (Deraniyagala, 1971)

**Striped Snake-eyed Lacerta**

1971. *Cabrita jerdoni minor* P. E. P. Deraniyagala. *Ceylon J. Sci.* **32**(1) : 104; Fig. 1.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-8a] from ERM, Sunnipenta; and several examples from ZSI, Kolkata [9 examples collected from the entire Reserve by B. Nath and I. N. Maligi]).

*Distribution* : Northern dry areas of Tiger Reserve near Nagarjunasagar.

*Elsewhere* : India and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

Family SCINCIDAE

24. *Lygosoma ashwamedhi* Sharma, 1969

**Ashwamedha Supple Skink**

*Material examined* : Few examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21173) from Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 30.7.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21174) from

Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 30.7.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21175) from Vijaypuri North, Nalgonda district, 8.7.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21176) from 3 km S of Vijaypuri South, Guntur district, 22.8.62, coll. by I.N. Maligi; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21177) from Eddenmotu Hill, Guntur district, 1.9.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21179) from 3 km S of Vijaypuri South, Guntur district, 23.8.62, coll. by I.N. Maligi].

*Distribution* : Around Nagarjunasagar area in the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Endemic to Andhra Pradesh, India.

*Remarks* : Rare. Rocky scrub forests.

*Status* : Vu.

25. *Lygosoma guentheri* (Peters, 1879)

**Günther's Supple Skink**

1879. *Eumeces Güntheri* W. C. H. Peters. *S.-Ber. Ges. Naturf. Freunde Berlin*, **1879**(3) : 36.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERMR-43a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Known only from Sunnipenta.

*Elsewhere* : India.

*Remarks* : Rare. Scrub forest. First report in Eastern Ghats.

*Status* : LRnt.

26. *Lygosoma punctata* (Gmelin, 1799)

**Spotted Supple Skink**

1799. *Scincus punctatus* J. F. Gmelin. *Hist. Amphib.* : 197.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [Reg. No. ZSI/FBS/N/1175] from ZSI, Hyderabad and a few examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21294) from Eddenmotu Hill, Guntur district, 3.9.62. coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21376) from Nandikonda Valley, Nalgonda district, 9.8.62. coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

27. *Mabuya carinata* (Schneider, 1801)

**Common Skink**

1801. *Scincus carinatus* J. G. Schneider. *Hist. Amphib.* : 183.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [ERM-15a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta; two examples [Reg. No. ZSI/FBS/N/1179-80] from ZSI, Hyderabad, and approximately 8 examples collected from the entire Reserve by B. Nath, I.N. Maligi, D.P. Sanyal, B. Dasgupta and A.K. Mondal).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Nepal.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

28. ***Mabuya macularia*** (Blyth, 1853)

**Bronze Grass Skink**

1853. *Euprepes macularius* E. Blyth. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, **22** : 652.

*Material examined* : One example each from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta [Reg. No. ERM-16a] and ZSI Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 23701) from Mannanur, Mahbubnagar district, 15.2.79, coll. by A.K. Mondal].

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

29. ***Mabuya nagarjuni*** Sharma, 1969

**Nagarjuna Hill Grass Skink**

1969. *Mabuya nagarjuni* R. C. Sharma. *Bull. Syst. Zool., Calcutta*, **1**(2) : 71; Fig. 1.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [Reg. No. ZS/FBS/N/1164] from ZSI, Hyderabad and four examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21170) from Vijaypuri South, Guntur district, 23.8.62, coll. by I.N. Maligi; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21171) from Vijaypuri South, Guntur district, 28.8.62, coll. by B. Nath; 2 ex. (Reg. No. 21172) from Vijaypuri South, Guntur district, 28.8.62, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Vijaypuri and Anupu near Nagarjunasagar area of Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Endemic to Andhra Pradesh.

*Remarks* : Rare. Rocky scrub forests. This species has been recollected from the vicinity of type locality by Srinivasulu *et al.* (2005).

*Status* : EN (B1, 2c).

## Family VARANIDAE

30. *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802)**Indian Monitor**

1802. *Tupinambis bengalensis* F.-M. Daudin. *Hist. nat. Rept.* 3 : 67.

*Material examined* : Four examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-26a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and two examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21315) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 2.9.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21441) from Nagarjunakonda Valley, Guntur district, 6.11.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21442) from Nagarjunakonda Valley, Guntur district, 7.11.63, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : Vu (A1, a,c,d).

## Suborder SERPENTES

## IV. SNAKES

## Family TYPHLOPIDAE

31. *Grypotyphlops acutus* (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1844)**Beaked Blind Snake**

1844. *Onychocephalus acutus* A.-M.-C. Duméril, G. Bibron & A.-H.-A. Duméril. *Érp. Gen.* 6 : 333.

*Material examined* : One example from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21330) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 9.9.62, coll. by B. Nath].

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout peninsular India south of Gujarat, Gangetic plain and Kolkata, West Bengal.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

32. *Ramphotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803)**Brahminy Blind Snake**

1803. *Eryx braminus* F.-M. Daudin. *Hist. Nat. Gen. Rept.* 7 : 279.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-19a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and several examples from ZSI, Kolkata [approximately 28 examples collected from the entire Reserve by B. Nath and I. N. Maligi]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout the oriental region, Africa, Mexico and New Guinea.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

#### Family BOIDAE

### 33. *Eryx conicus* (Schneider, 1801)

#### **Russell's Sand Boa**

1801. *Boa conica* J. G. Schneider. *Hist. Amphib.* 2 : 268.

*Material examined* : Two examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-14a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and one example from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21331) from Tiger Valley, Nalgonda district, 5.8.62, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

### 34. *Eryx johnii* (Russell, 1801)

#### **Red Sand Boa**

1801. *Boa johnii* P. Russell. *Continuation Account Indian Serpents* : 18; Pl. xvi-xvii.

*Material examined* : Three examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-22a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and two examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21332) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 27.7.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21333) from Eddenmotu Hill, Guntur district, 3.9.62, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

35. *Python molurus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**Indian Rock Python**

1758. *Coluber molurus* C. Linnaeus. 1758. *Syst. Nat.* 10th ed. 1 : 225.

*Material examined* : None.

*Distribution* : Few localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Peninsular India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Rocky scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields. Based on sightings and Rao *et al.* (2005).

*Status* : LRnt.

## Family COLUBRIDAE

36. *Ahaetulla nasuta* (Lacepède, 1789)**Common Vine Snake**

1789. *Coluber nasuta* B.-G.-É. de L. V.-S.-I. Lacepède. *Hist. Nat. Serp.* 1 : 100.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-6a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India and Indo-Malayan region.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

37. *Amphiesma stolatum* (Linnaeus, 1758)**Buff-striped Keelback**

1758. *Coluber stolatus* C. Linnaeus. *Syst. Zool.* 10th ed. : 219.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-27a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Few localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

38. *Argyrogena fasciolata* (Shaw, 1802)**Banded Racer**

1802. *Coluber fasciolatus* G. Shaw. *Gen. Zool.* : 528.



*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-28a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Most of India and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

39. *Atretium schistosum* (Daudin, 1803)

**Olive Keelback Water Snake**

1803. *Coluber schistosus* F.-M. Daudin. *Hist. Nat. Rept.* 6 : 132.

*Material examined* : None.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Most of India and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Near waterbodies and paddy fields. Based on sightings and it is reported as common in Andhra Pradesh by Sanyal *et al.* (1993).

*Status* : LRnt.

40. *Boiga forsteni* (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)

**Forsten's Cat Snake**

1854. *Triglyphodon forsteni* A.-M.-C. Duméril, G. Bibron & A.-H.-A. Duméril. *Erp. Gén.* 7 : 1077.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-20a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Few localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : India, Nepal and Sri Lanka

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

41. *Boiga trigonata* (Schneider in Bechstein, 1802)

**Common Indian Cat Snake**

1802. *Coluber trigonatus* J. G. Schneider in : J. M. Bechstein. *La Cepede's Nat. Amphib.* : 256; Pl. 40; Fig. 1.

*Material examined* : Two examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-37a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and one example from ZSI, Kolkata [Reg. No. 21457] from Nagarjunakonda Valley, Guntur district, 13.11.63, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

42. *Coelognathus helena* (Daudin, 1803)

**Indian Trinket Snake**

1803. *Coluber helena* F.-M. Daudin. *Hist. nat. Rept.* **6** : 277; Pl. LXXVI.

*Material examined* : Three examples (one example [Reg No. ERM-32a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta; one example [Reg. No. ZSI/FBS/N/1181] from ZSI, Hyderabad and one example from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21334) from Eddenmotu Hill, 3.9.62, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

43. *Coluber bholanathi* Sharma, 1976

**Nagarjunasagar Racer**

1976. *Coluber bholanathi* R. C. Sharma. *Comp. Physiol. Ecol.* **1**(3) : 106; Fig. 1.

*Material examined* : Three examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21335) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 27.7.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21336) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 4.9.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21337) from Nagarjuna Hill, Guntur district, 9.9.62, coll. by B. Nath].

*Distribution* : Nagarjuna Hill.

*Elsewhere* : Known only from type locality–Nagarjuna Hill, in Andhra Pradesh.

*Remarks* : Rare. Scrub and open forests.

*Status* : Vu (D2).

44. *Dendrelaphis tristis* (Daudin, 1803)

**Common Bronzeback Tree Snake**

1803. *Coluber tristis* F.-M. Daudin. *Hist. nat. Rept.* **6** : 430.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-25a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Most of India and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

45. *Enhydris enhydris* (Schneider, 1799)

**Common Smooth Water Snake**

1799. *Hydrus enhydris* J. G. Schneider. *Hist. Amphib.* 1 : 245.

*Material examined* : None.

*Distribution* : Agriculture fields in the foothills and also in forest streams throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields. No vouchers collected, based on sightings in June 2003 survey.

*Status* : LRnt.

46. *Liopeltis calamaria* (Günther, 1858)

**Stripe-necked Snake**

1858. *Cyclophis calamaria* A. C. L. G. Günther. *Cat. Colubrine Snakes British Mus.* : 250.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERMR-29a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Shikaram in Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

*Remarks* : Rare. Scrub and open forests.

*Status* : LRnt.

47. *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Common Wolf Snake**

1758. *Coluber aulicus* C. Linnaeus. *Syst. Nat.* 10th ed 1 : 220.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERMR-35a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, Myanmar, Indonesia, S. China.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

48. *Lycodon striatus* (Shaw, 1802)**Barred Wolf Snake**

1802. *Coluber striatus* G. Shaw. *Gen. Zool.* : 527.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-44a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Few localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout peninsular India.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

49. *Lycodon travancoricus* (Beddome, 1870)**Travancore Wolf Snake**

1870. *Cercaspis travancoricus* R. H. Beddome. *Madras Monthly J. Med. Sci.* **1** : 169.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-38a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Shikaram in Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : India.

*Remarks* : Rare. Scrub and open forests.

*Status* : LRnt.

50. *Macropisthodon plumbicolor* (Cantor, 1839)**Green Keelback**

1839. *Tropidonotus plumbicolor* T. Cantor. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, **1829**(7) : 54.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-36a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Most of India.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

51. *Oligodon arnensis* (Shaw, 1802)**Banded Kukri Snake**

1802. *Coluber arnensis* G. Shaw. *Gen. Zool.* : 526.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-41a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Most of India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

52. *Oligodon taeniolatus* (Jerdon, 1853)

**Streaked Kukri Snake**

1853. *Coronella taeniolata* T. C. Jerdon. *J. Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, **22**(6) : 528.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-42a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and two examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21451) from Nagarjunakonda Valley, Guntur district, 11.11.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21450) from Putlagudem near Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 6.11.63, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Few localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Most of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

53. *Oligodon travancoricus* (Beddome, 1877)

**Travancore Kukri Snake**

1877. *Oligodon travancoricum* R. H. Beddome. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, **1877**(4) : 685.

*Material examined* : Two examples from ZSI, Kolkata [2 ex. (Reg. No. 21338) from Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 28.7.62, coll. by B. Nath].

*Distribution* : Few localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : India.

*Remarks* : Uncommon. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : EN (B1, 2a, b, c).

54. *Ptyas mucosa* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Indian Rat Snake**

1758. *Coluber mucosus* C. Linnaeus. *Syst. Nat.* 10th ed **1** : 216.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-39a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and three examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21446) from Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 14.9.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21449) from Nagarjunakonda Valley, Guntur district, 9.11.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21447) from Tiger Valley, Nalgonda district, 3.10.63, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

55. ***Sibynophis subpunctatus*** (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854)

**Peninsular Black-headed Snake**

1854. *Oligodon subpunctatum* A.-M.-C. Duméril, G. Bibron & A.-H.-A. Duméril. *Erp. Gén.* 7 : 58.

*Material examined* : One example [Reg. No. ERM-40a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta.

*Distribution* : So far known only from the vicinity of Sunnipenta in Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout peninsular India.

*Remarks* : Rare. Scrub and open forests.

*Status* : LRnt.

56. ***Xenochropis piscator*** (Schneider, 1799)

**Checkered Keelback Water Snake**

1799. *Hydrus piscator* J. G. Schneider. *Hist. Amphib.* 1 : 247.

*Material examined* : Four examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1ex. (Reg. No. 21452) from Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 1.10.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1ex. (Reg. No. 21454) from Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 8.11.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1ex. (Reg. No. 21455) from Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 9.11.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1ex. (Reg. No. 21339) from Tiger Valley, Nalgonda district, 6.8.62, coll. by B. Nath].

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, and Indo-Malayan region.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRLc.

Family ELAPIDAE

57. ***Bungarus caeruleus*** (Schneider, 1801)

**Common Indian Krait**

1801. *Pseudoboa caerulea* J. G. Schneider. *Hist. Amphib.* 2 : 284.

*Material examined* : Three examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-24a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and two examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21459) from Putlagudem near

Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 6.11.63, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21458) from Nandikonda Valley, Nalgonda district, 7.10.63, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

58. *Calliophis melanurus* (Shaw, 1802)

**Slender Coral Snake**

1802. *Coluber melanurus* G. Shaw. *Gen. Zool.* : 552.

*Material examined* : One example from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21460) from Putlagudem near Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 6.11.63, coll. by B. Nath].

*Distribution* : Only from Nagarjunasagar area of the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Most of India and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Rare. Scrub forests.

*Status* : LRnt.

59. *Naja naja* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Common Cobra**

1758. *Coluber naja* C. Linnaeus. *Syst. Nat.* 10th ed. 1 : 221.

*Material examined* : Two examples (one each [Reg. No. ERM-33a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21461) from Pullareddygudem, Guntur district, 1.10.63, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

Family VIPERIDAE

60. *Daboia russelii* (Shaw & Nodder, 1797)

**Russell's Viper**

1797. *Coluber russelii* G. Shaw & F. P. Nodder. *Nat. Misc.* 8 : Pl. 108.

*Material examined* : Two examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-34a] each from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21341) from Eddenmotu Hill, Guntur district, 4.9.62, coll. by B. Nath]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indo-Malayan and Indo-Australian regions.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

#### 61. *Echis carinatus* (Schneider, 1801)

##### Indian Saw-scaled Viper

1801. *Pseudoboa carinatus* J. G. Schneider. *Hist. Amphib.* 2 : 285.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-23a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and six examples from ZSI, Kolkata [1 ex. (Reg. No. 21342) from Eddenmotu Hill, Guntur district, 8.9.62, coll. by B. Nath; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21402) from Eddenmotu Hill, Guntur district, 3.9.62, coll. by I.N. Maligi; 1 ex. (Reg. No. 21401) from Vijaypuri North, Nalgonda district, 8.8.62, coll. by I.N. Maligi]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Most of India, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Ghana.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

#### 62. *Trimeresurus gramineus* (Shaw, 1802)

##### Bamboo Pit Viper

1802. *Coluber gramineus* G. Shaw. *Gen. Zool.* : 420.

*Material examined* : Few examples (one example [Reg. No. ERM-31a] from ERM Labs, Sunnipenta and two examples from ZSI, Hyderabad [ZSI/FBS/N/1182-83]).

*Distribution* : Many localities throughout the Tiger Reserve.

*Elsewhere* : Throughout peninsular India.

*Remarks* : Common. Scrub, open forests and near agricultural fields.

*Status* : LRnt.

### SUMMARY

A total of 62 species of reptiles belonging to 3 orders, 15 families and 41 genera are reported in the Tiger Reserve. In terms of abundance and diversity, lizards are plentiful while the crocodiles



and turtles are less in number. Among the squamates, snakes are more diverse than the lizards (32 vs 23 species). Two species, namely *Lygosoma ashwamedhi* Sharma, 1969 (Squamata : Scincidae) and *Coluber bholanathi* Sharma, 1976 (Squamata : Elapidae) are endemic to the Tiger Reserve and their current status seems to be uncertain as our efforts to find these species in June 2003 yielded no successful results even in the vicinity of the type locality. We rerecorded another endemic reptile, namely *Mabuya nagarjuni* Sharma, 1969 after a gap of four decades from Anupu in Tiger Reserve in June 2003 (Srinivasulu *et al.*, 2005). This paper, based on the collections made by the authors and reported earlier by other workers, provides a consolidated account of the reptilian fauna of the Tiger Reserve. A definitive herpetology of the Reserve, should, however await further explorations.

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