

“ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF SNAKES FROM NORTHEAST,
WITH FOUR NEW RECORDS”

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INTRODUCTION

This paper supplements the earlier account by Mathew (1980) and deals with 15 species recorded recently from the study areas. In the course of the study an attempt to confirm the distinguishing characters of the pit vipers, *Trimeresurus monticola* and *T. jerdoni* has been made. Included in the account that follows are 15 species referable to five families. The entire material studied barring one example of *Bungarus niger*, is deposited in the Eastern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Shillong.

Order : SQUAMATA

Sub-order : SERPENTES

Family : TYPHLOPIDAE

1. *Typhlops tenuicollis* (Peters) (Peter's Blind Snake)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, West Garo Hills, Selbalgiri, 28.iv.'88,
Coll. V. T. Darlong & J. P. Sati, Regd. No. V/ERS 8769.

Measurement : 135 mm.

Distribution : Himalayas, Samagutin, Nagaland.

Remarks : First record from Meghalaya.

2. *Typhlops diardi mülleri* Schlegel (Large Blind Snake)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, West Garo Hills, Selbalgiri, 20.iv.85,
Coll. J. R. B. Alfred, Regd. No. V/ERS 8160.

Measurement : 235 mm.

Distribution ; Burma, Siam and French Indo-China, South of lat. 14° ; the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

Family : COLUBRIDAE

3. *Ptyas korros* (Schlegel) (Indo-Chinese Rat Snake)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, West Garo Hills, Selbalgiri, 2.v.84,
Coll. J. P. Sati, Regd. No. V/ERS 3660,

Measurement : 400 mm. (in complete)

Distribution : The Indo-Chinese region east of longitude 98° ; in Assam as far north as the Mishmi Hills ; in Upper Burma to lat 28° ; Yunnan ; S. China ; Hainan ; Malaysia.

Remarks : First record from Meghalaya.

4. *Oligodon cyclurus* (Cantor) (Cantor's Kukri Snake)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, East Khasi Hills, Kyrdem Kulai, 1.xi.'83, Coll. R. Zoramthanga, Regd. No. V/ERS 7028.

Measurement : 580 mm.

Distribution : N. E. India, Indo-China.

5. *Oligodon albocinctus* (Cantor) (White-barred Kukri Snake)

Material examined : 2 exs; 1 ex, India, Arunachal Pradesh, on way to Mawsing village to Migging village, 12.xii.'85, Coll. C. Radhakrishnan, Regd. No. V/ERS 8253; 1 ex, Mizoram, Aibak road, 7.ix.'89, Coll. Y. P. Sinha, Regd. No. V/ERS 9281.

Measurement : 785 mm-860 mm.

Distribution : The Eastern Himalayas as far west as Sikkim ; Bengal (Rangpur, Kaligang); the whole of Assam; Chittagong province; Burma as far south as the Arrakan Hills.

6. *Oligodon dorsalis* (Gray & Hardwicke) (Spot tailed Kukri Snake)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, Garo Hills, from a stream near Chinabat, 23.ii.'83, Coll. A. Hussain, Regd. No. V/ERS 8166.

Measurement : 245 mm.

Distribution : Meghalaya (Khasi & Garo Hills); Nagaland; Bangladesh; Burma, (N. Changyang in the Triangle, Chin Hills, Mansi, Katha district).

7. *Ahaetulla prasinus* Boie (Short-nosed Whip Snake)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, West Khasi Hills, 23 km. away from Nongstoin on Syrkon road, 8.iv.'87, Coll. J. R. B. Alfred, Regd. No. V/ERS 8417.

Measurement : 2100 mm.

Distribution : From Bengal (Jalpaiguri district) and the Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim) throughout the whole of the Indo-Chinese region as far north as the Triangle in Upper Burma, to the Malay Peninsula and the Indo Australian Archipelago; Pulo condore off the coast of Cochin China.

Remarks : First record from Meghalaya.

8. **Lycodon aulicus** (Linnæus) (Common Wolf Snake)

Material examined : 2 exs; India, Assam, Kaziranga, 20.iv.'85, Coll. C. Radhakrishnan, Regd. No. V/ERS 8164.

Measurement : 530 mm-560 mm.

Distribution : Sri Lanka; Maldivé Islands; the whole of India, extending west to Sind and north to the Himalayas (Kangra district, Nepal, Sikkim) ; the whole of Indo-China ; Hongkong ; Southern China ; the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, as far south as Timor ; the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; Celebes and the Philippines ; Mauritius.

9. **Pseudoxenodon macrops** Blyth (False Cobra)

Material examined : 2 exs, 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, East Khasi Hills, Shillong (no other data), Regd. No. V/ERS 3078 ; 1 ex, East Khasi Hills, Upper Shillong, April, '77, Donated by Potato Research Institute, Shillong, Regd. No. V/ERS 3080.

Measurement : 790 mm-880 mm.

Distribution : The Eastern Himalayas as far west as Nepal ; Assam ; the whole of Burma as far north as lat. 28° and south to Tenasserim (Taok Plateau) ; Siam (Pa Meang in the extreme north) ; Annam (Langbian Plateau) ; Malay Peninsula (Cameron Highlands).

10. **Boiga cyanea** (Dum & Bibr.) (Green Cat Snake)

Material examined ; 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, East Khasi Hills, Kyrdem Kulai, 23.vi.'84, Coll. St. Peter's School, Shillong, Regd. No. V/ERS 3545.

Measurement : 1610 mm.

Distribution : Darjeeling district (Tindharia) ; Assam (Cachar, Sonapur, Monacherra) ; Burma (Maymyo, Rangoon district, Tavoy) ; Siam (Nakon Lampang, Dong Rek Mts. and islands of the Gulf, viz., Koh Pennan, Koh Pa-Ngan) ; Cambodia (Bokor) ; Cochin China ; Pulo Condore.

Remarks : First record from Meghalaya.

11. **Boiga cynodon** (Boie) (Bengal Cat Snake)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Arunachal Pradesh, Nampong, 16.vi. 82, Coll. J. Joseph, Regd. No. V/ERS 8135.

Measurement : 1630 mm.

Distribution : Bengal (Jalpaiguri) ; Assam (Cachar, Samaguting, Nahar Khatiya) ;

Meghalaya (Garo Hills) Nagaland ; Burma, as far north as lat. 26° (Myitkyina) ; Siam ; Cambodia ; the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

Remarks : First record from Arunachal Pradesh.

Family : ELAPIDAE

12. **Bungarus bungaroides** (Cantor) (Himalayan Krait)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, West Garo Hills, Selbalgiri 29.x. '86, Coll. J.P. Sati, Regd. No. V/ERS 8352.

Measurement : 400 mm.

Distribution : Eastern Himalayas (Darjeeling district ; Sikkim) Meghalaya (Khasi Hills) ; Assam (Cachar) ; Upper Burma (Matsatap and Ahke, N.E. of Fort Hertz).

13. **Bungarus niger** Wall (Black Krait)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, West Garo Hills, Selbalgiri, 28.iv. '88, Coll. V.T. Darlong & J.P. Sati.

Measurement : 490 mm.

Distribution : Eastern Himalayas (Darjeeling district) ; Assam (Dibrugarh, Sadiya, Sibsagar) ; Meghalaya (Garo Hills).

Family : VIPERIDAE

14. **Echis carinatus** (Schneider) (Saw-Scaled Viper)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Assam, 17.iv. '77, Coll. J. R. B. Alfred, Regd. No. V/ERS 8152.

Measurement : 352 mm.

Distribution : The whole of India South of the Ganges, except Bengal.

Family : CROTALIDAE

15. **Trimeresurus jerdoni** Günther (Jerdon's Pit Viper)

Material examined : 1 ex, India, Meghalaya, East Khasi Hills, Tripura Castle Road, Shillong, 30.vi.'86, Coll. S.C. Roy, Regd. No. V/ERS 8260.

Measurement : 720 mm.

Distribution : Smith's (1943) record for *monticola* is "Eastern Himalayas, the whole of Assam and Burma, S.E. Tibet, Yunnan, Siam" where as for *jerdoni* it is "Assam as far west as the Khasi Hills, Burma north of latitude 22° S.E. Tibet, Yunnan, Tong-King and China". From the above it is clear that *monticola* can be of common

occurrence in the present study area whereas for *jerdoni* Khasi Hills forms its western most limit of distribution.

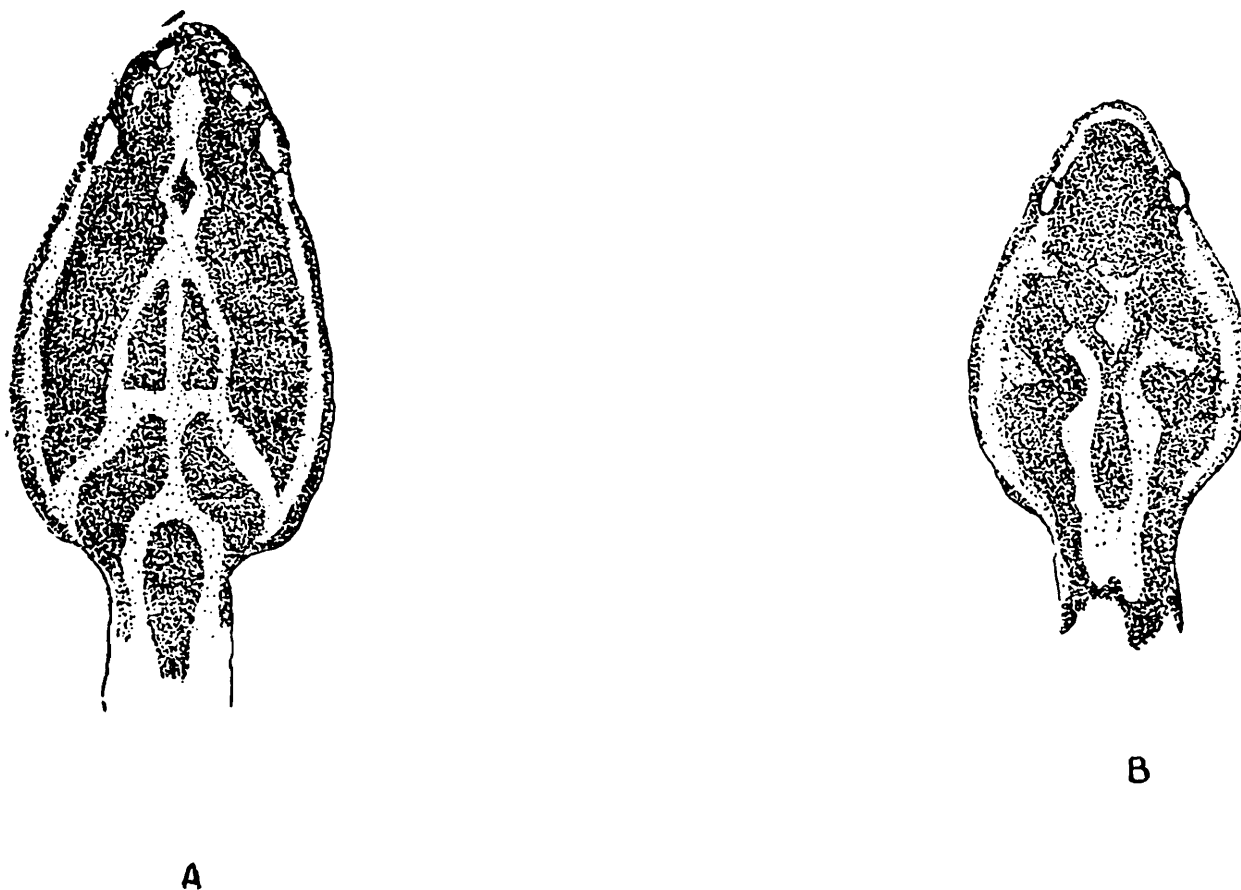


Fig. 1. A close-up of the colour pattern on the head of A. *Trimeresurus jerdoni* and B. *Trimeresurus monticola*.

Remarks :

Mathew (1980) has assigned 13 examples to *Trimeresurus monticola* and identified 10 examples as *Trimeresurus jerdoni*. However, a critical examination of the entire material of the two pit vipers revealed the fact that all the 23 specimens identified earlier as belonging to *T. monticola* and *T. jerdoni* are indeed the one and same species i.e. *T. monticola* and the other species i.e. *T. jerdoni* is scarcely represented in the ophidan collection of the Eastern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India. The examination of the pattern on the head of the two vipers under discussion (See fig. 1) as well as their distribution (See above) also confirmed this fact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta and to the Officer-in-Charge, Eastern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Shillong for permission to study the material and facilities. I am also grateful to Drs. J.R.B. Alfred,

Scientist-'SF' and S. K. Chanda, Scientist-'SD', Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta for their encouragement and suggestions. The figures were drawn by my friend and colleague Dr. (Miss) N. Sen.

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