



Range Extension of Forsten's Catsnake, *Boiga forsteni* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril 1854) in the Damoh District of Madhya Pradesh, India

Yogesh H. Vamdev, Vishal Varma, and Akshay Parashar

Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai – 400001, India (snakesvishal@gmail.com)

Forsten's Catsnake (*Boiga forsteni*) is a colubrid with a wide but disjunct distribution in Nepal, Sri-Lanka, and India. In India, it has been recorded from Uttarakhand (Dehradun District), southern Rajasthan (Sirohi District), and Jharkhand (Latehar and Palamu Districts); the Western Ghats from Dang (Gujarat to Kerala); the Ganges Plain of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal; Orissa and the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh (Nallamalai Hills, Kurnool District); the Chhatarpur District of Madhya Pradesh; and the Amravati District of Maharashtra (Daniel 1963; Husain and Ray 1995; Kumar and Daniels 1999; Sharma et al. 2002; Whitaker and Captain 2004; Rao et al. 2005; Nande 2007; Tillack 2008; Chaudhari 2017; Hussain and Das 2017).

At 2140 h on 20 September 2014, during a field survey at the Veerangna Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary (23.548255°N, 79.737871°E; 397 m asl), Damoh District, Madhya Pradesh, we found a road-killed *B. forsteni* (Fig. 1). The Veerangna Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary has a varied landscape with hills, valleys, and plains; the vegetation is predominantly tropical mixed dry deciduous forest.

The only published record of *B. forstenii* from Madhya Pradesh is from the Chhatarpur District (Tillack 2008). The record reported herein extends this portion of the species' range south into the Damoh District (Fig. 2).

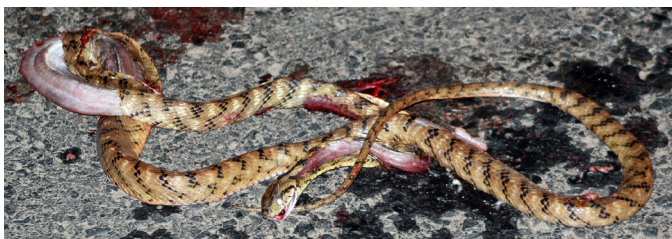


Fig. 1. A road-killed Forsten's Catsnake (*Boiga forstenii*) found in the Veerangna Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary, Damoh District, Madhya Pradesh.



Fig. 2. Map of India showing the distribution of Forsten's Catsnake (*Boiga forstenii*; gray shading) and the range extension in the Damoh District, Madhya Pradesh (red).

Literature Cited

- Chaudhari, A., M. Sen, and S. Chowdhury. 2017. Geographic distribution: *Boiga forsteni* (Forsten's cat snake). *Herpetological Review* 48: 391.
- Daniel, J. 1963. Extension of the known range of the Catsnake, *Boiga forsteni* (Dum. & Bibr.). *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 59: 966–967.
- Hussain, Z. and A. Das. 2017. Distribution of *Boiga forsteni* (Duméril, Bibron et Duméril, 1854) in northern India. *The Indian Forester* 143: 1091–1092.
- Kumar, M. and R. Daniels. 1999. Checklist of reptiles and amphibians of Kollis Hills. *Cobra* 38: 21–22.
- Nande, R. and S. Deshmukh. 2007. Snakes of Amravati district including Melghat, Maharashtra, with important records of the Indian Egg-eater, Montane Trinket snake and Indian Smooth snake. *Zoos' Print Journal* 22: 2920–2924.
- Rao, K.T., H.V. Ghate, M. Sudhakar, S.M.M. Javed, and S.R. Krishna. 2005. Herpetofauna of Nallamalai Hills with eleven new records from the region

- including ten new records for Andhra Pradesh. *Zoos' Print Journal* 20: 1737–1740.
- Sharma, S.K., K. Chawda, and S. Patel. 2002. Sighting of Forsten's Cat Snake (*Boiga forsteni*) at Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary, Sirohi District, Rajasthan. *Cobra* 48: 7–9.
- Tillack, F., A. Hussain, and H. Hussain. 2008. Notes on the distribution of *Boiga forsteni* (Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854) in India, with a new record from the Chhatarpur District, Madhya Pradesh. *Sauria* 30: 49–50.
- Whitaker, R. and A. Captain. 2004. *Snakes of India. The Field Guide*. Draco Books, Chennai.