



# A New Item in the Diet of the Kashmir Rock Agama (*Laudakia tuberculata*)

Swati Nawani<sup>1</sup>, Abhijit Das<sup>2</sup>, and Indraneil Das<sup>3</sup>

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 248 001, India

(<sup>1</sup>swatinawani327@gmail.com; <sup>2</sup>abhijit@wii.gov.in)

<sup>3</sup>Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia (idas@unimas.my)

The Kashmir Rock Agama (*Laudakia tuberculata*) is a saxicolous lizard with a distribution that ranges from eastern Afghanistan across northern Pakistan and India to Nepal and the Tibetan Plateau at elevations of 310 m to at least 5,000 m in the western Himalayas (Minton 1966; Khan 2006). Its diet has been reported to include both plant and animal matter (Waltner 1991; Eremchenko and Kästle 2002). Minton (1966) reported insects taken by juveniles, which is suggestive of an ontogenetic dietary shift as has been reported in many ecologically similar large herbivorous lizards, including congeners (see Waltner 1991).

Bashir et al. (2009) examined the natural diet and reported both animals and plants in the diet of the species; plants included *Brassica oleracea* var. *acephala* (Kale), *B. oleracea* var. *capitata* (Cabbage), *Solanum lycopersicum* (Tomato), *Lactuca serriola* (Prickly Lettuce), *Cynodon dactylon* (Bermuda Grass), *Trifolium repens* (White Clover), *Morus alba* (White

Mulberry), and *Ficus carica* (Common Fig). Additionally, Lal (1991) noted that the species, presumably around cultivated areas, would feed on “tender leaves of pumpkin, squash, bottle gourd, brinjal, tomato, *Zinnia*, *Dahlia* and some forest plants in nurseries”; and Vishwakarma et al. (2019) described individuals of this species feeding on flowers of the naturalized Madagascar Periwinkle (*Catheranthus roseus*) in a tropical moist dry deciduous forest.

At around 1430 h on 29 July 2019, we videographed an adult Kashmir Rock Agama on a rock at the edge of a road (Fig. 1) surrounded by *Eupatorium* sp. (Asteraceae) and Panicked Foldwing (*Dicliptera* aff. *paniculata*) (Acanthaceae). The lizard was feeding on leaves of the latter, a species that had not been recorded in the diet of *L. tuberculata*. The locality is adjacent to human habitations outside Benog Wildlife Sanctuary (30.480126°N, 78.036475°E; WGS84), Uttarakhand, India. The video footage was accessioned into the Zoology Research Collection (ZRC) of the National Museum of Singapore as ZRC [IMG] 2.462.

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**Fig. 1.** An adult Kashmir Rock Agama (*Laudakia tuberculata*) feeding on the leaves of Panicked Foldwing (*Dicliptera* aff. *paniculata*) (Acanthaceae) outside the Benog Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttarakhand, India. Photograph by Swati Nawani.

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