



# A New Locality Record for the Recently Described Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*)

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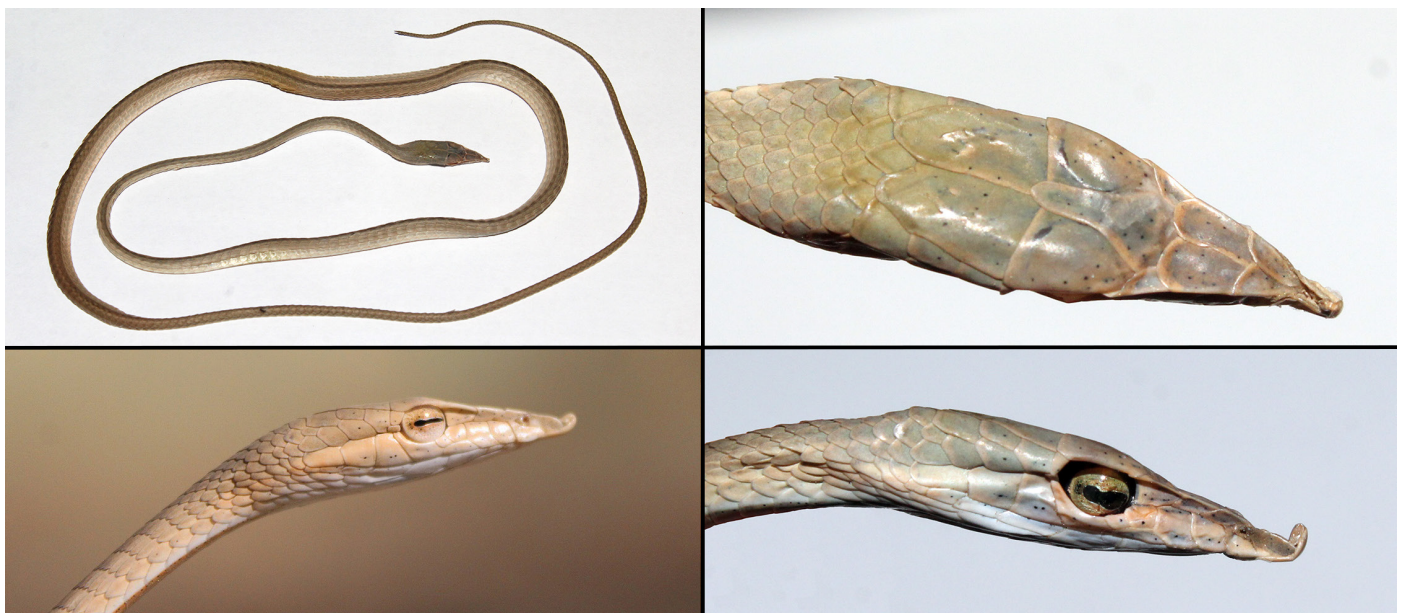
Of the ten currently recognized species of tropical Asian vinesnakes in the genus *Ahaetulla*, nine occur on the Indian Subcontinent (Uetz et al. 2020). The Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia* Deepak, Narayanan, Sarkar, Dutta, and Mohapatra 2019) was described on the basis of three specimens from Odisha in eastern India and Mount Aboo in Rajasthan. Patel et al. (2019) subsequently recorded the species from three localities in Gujarat.

Herein, we report an additional record from the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. A subadult male (SVL 427 mm, tail 230 mm; Fig. 1) was basking on a stem of grass at 0830 h on 10 December 2017 on the slope of a hill adjacent to Dhok (*Anogeissus pendula*) dominated forest at Kalighati in the Sariska Range (27°18'09.3"N, 76°25'07.0"E) at an elevation of 578 m asl. This site is approximately 600 km northeast of Mount Abu and thus represents the northernmost locality

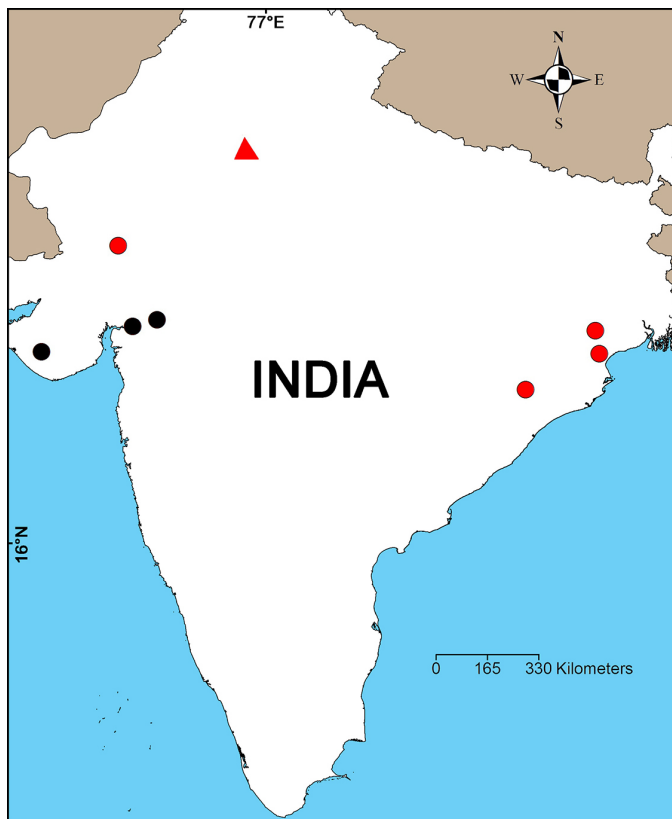
record for this species (Fig. 2). The specimen was accessioned into the collections of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII/NRW/No\_55).

The snake was identified as *Ahaetulla laudankia* based on the following characters: head long (18.8 mm) and slender (head width 5.34 mm) with a long pointed snout (eye–snout distance 8.03 mm) oriented slightly upward; eyes large (ED 3.04 mm) with horizontal pupils; eye–nostril distance 4.97 mm and interorbital distance (5.10 mm) greater than internarial distance (1.50 mm). Dorsal scales smooth and in oblique 15:15:13 rows. Ventrals numbered 188; cloacal scale single, subcaudals 171, loreal absent, supralabials 8, infralabials 7, preocular single, postoculars 2, and temporals 1 + 2. The dorsum was light brown, the venter somewhat lighter.

Vinesnakes with superficially similar morphology to those of *A. laudankia* have been reported from Phansad in



**Fig. 1.** A Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*) (WII/NRW/No\_55) from the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. Photographs by Debaprasad Sengupta.



**Fig. 2.** Known locality records for the Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*). Red dots indicate localities recorded by Deepak et al. (2019), black dots those of Patel et al. (2019), and the red triangle marks the new record reported herein from the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.

Maharashtra (Walmiki et al. 2012) and the Nallamalai Hills in Andhra Pradesh (Rao et al. 2005), but the taxonomic sta-

tus of those snakes requires confirmation. The limits of this recently described and poorly known species’ distribution are not well documented. An awareness of its entire distribution is necessary to assess its conservation status.

### Acknowledgements

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