Record of the Arrow-headed Trinket Snake (Coelognathus helena nigriangularis) from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan, India

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The recently described Arrow-headed Trinket Snake (Coelognathus helena nigriangularis) is characterized by an inverted black V- or Y-shaped mark on the ventrolateral side of the neck near the base of the parietal shields (Mohapattra et al. 2016; Chowdhury et al. 2018). At 1101 h on 24 November 2018, after completing a morning line transect survey (for tigers) at the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (Sawai Madhopur District, Rajasthan), we encountered an Arrow-headed Trinket Snake (Fig. 1) coiled and basking on the main trail near the Raipur Post (26.013574°N, 76.422362°E; elev. 356 m asl). In response to our presence, the juvenile (approx. 0.3–0.4 m in total length) moved into nearby leaf litter. The surrounding area was covered predominantly with Dhonk Trees (Anogeissus pendula).

Coelognathus helena nigriangularis has been recorded from parts of Odisha (Mohapattra et al. 2016), Madhya Pradesh (Edake 2011; Kumbhar et al. 2011), Jharkhand (Lampe 2011; Kumbhar et al. 2011), Chhattisgarh (Edake 2011; Kumbhar et al. 2011), Jharkhand (Lampe 2011; Kumbhar et al. 2011), Madhya Pradesh (Mohapattra et al. 2016), Andhra Pradesh (Kantimahanti et al. 2015), Maharashtra (Schulz 2013), West Bengal (Chowdhury et al. 2018), and a specimen sent to the Bombay Natural History Society Museum was recorded from Rajasthan (BNHS 3374) without precise locality data (Mohapattra et al. 2016; Chowdhury et al. 2018). Our observation provides precise locality data for the subspecies in Rajasthan.

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Literature Cited


