



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 (Mohapatra 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 (Mohapatra et al. 2016), Madhya Pradesh (Edake 2011; Kumbhar et al. 2011), Jharkhand (Lampe and Lindholm 1902; Srivastava et al. 2013), Chhattisgarh (Mohapatra 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 (Mohapatra et al. 2016; Chowdhury et al. 2018). Our observation provides precise locality data for the subspecies in Rajasthan.

Acknowledgement

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Fig. 1. An Arrow-headed Trinket Snake (*Coelognathus helena nigriangularis*) from the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (left) and the habitat in which it was found (right). Photographs by Gaurav Singh.

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