

# Range Extension of Wallace's Striped Racer, *Wallaceophis gujaratensis* (Squamata: Colubridae), in North-central Gujarat, India

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Wallace's Striped Racer (*Wallaceophis gujaratensis*) is a recently described species endemic to the western Indian state of Gujarat (Mirza et al. 2016). These diurnally active snakes occur in arid landscapes, with most reports (Patel and Vyas 2019) from central Gujarat (Panchmahal, Vadodara, and Ahmedabad Districts) and the Saurashtra Region (Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, and Amreli Districts). However, based on a photograph, Vyas et al. (2019) also recorded this species from Bayad, Aravalli District, in northern Gujarat.

On 16 June 2019 and 1 September 2019, we found two individuals during field surveys in Timba Village, Mahesana District (23.987804°N, 72.761972°E; 241 m asl), and Patan District (23.954308°N, 72.347223°E; 127 m asl), respectively. Both were near agricultural areas and were released after taking photographs and morphometric measurements. The species had not been recorded previously from districts in north-central Gujarat. These new distribution records suggest

that more systematic surveys are required to better understand the distribution of this species.

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**Fig. 1.** Wallace's Striped Racers (*Wallaceophis gujaratensis*) from the Mahesana (left) and Patan (right) Districts of Gujarat, India. Photographs by Jaydeep Maheta.