



First Record of the Copper-headed Trinket Snake, *Coelognathus radiatus* (Boie 1827) (Reptilia: Colubridae), from Bihar, India

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The Copper-headed Trinket Snake (*Coelognathus radiatus*) ranges from India across southern China to Hong Kong and southward through Sumatra and Java to Borneo, including Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam (Nguyen et al. 2014). In India, the species has been reported from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal (Aengals et al. 2018; Chandra and Gajbe 2005; Das et al.

2019; Günther 1864; Harit 2010; Javed et al. 2010; Nath et al. 2011; Thakur 2011).

During a tiger pugmark survey at 1200 h on 26 October 2019 in the Gobardhana Range of the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Pashchim Champaran District, Bihar, we encountered a snake subsequently identified as *Coelognathus radiatus* (Fig. 1) crossing a forest road (27.331°N, 84.306°E). Habitat near a riverbed in moist deciduous forest was dominated by Khair (*Acacia catechu*), Rohini (*Mallotus philippensis*), Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*), and weeds like the introduced Blue Mistflower (*Eupatorium odoratum*).

Our sighting is the first record of *Coelognathus radiatus* from the state of Bihar, although Javed et al. (2010) had included the Purnia District of Bihar in a map showing the distribution of this species. That locality is approximately 500 km ESE of the Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

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Fig. 1. A Copper-headed Trinket Snake (*Coelognathus radiatus*) encountered on 26 October 2019 in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar, India. Images extracted from video recordings by Arif.

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