



# New District Records of Snakes in Nepal

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Eight species of mildly venomous, rear-fanged catsnakes in the genus *Boiga* have been reported from Nepal (Shah and Tiwari 2004; Pandey et al. 2018). *Boiga ceylonensis* had been reported from Chitlang, Makwanpur District, by Wall (1907), but Smith (1943) listed this record as *B. nuchalis* (see also Shah and Tiwari 2004).

The Himalayan Catsnake (*B. multifasciata*) is abundant on low vegetation in forested areas of the mid-hill region at elevations of 610–3,100 m (Schleich and Kästle 2002; Shah and Tiwari 2004; Whitaker and Captain 2004). We encountered an adult Himalayan Catsnake (Fig. 1) at 0925 h on 28 August 2020 in Ganesh Tole, Mulpani, Baglung District, Nepal (28°15'30"N, 83°33'49"E; elev. 1,133 m asl). This is the first record of the species from Baglung District. The nearest published locality is in Kaski District, ca. 80 km to the northeast (Shah and Tiwari 2004).



Fig. 1. A Himalayan Catsnake (*Boiga multifasciata*) from Baglung District, Nepal. Photograph by Sandip Sharma.



Fig. 2. Map of Nepal showing known localities of the Black-banded Trinket Snake (*Oreocryptophis porphyraceus*). Districts with previously published localities are marked in yellow and new observations are indicated by green dots in districts colored light blue.

The Black-banded Trinket Snake (*Oreocryptophis porphyraceus*) inhabits low but dense vegetation and agricultural lands near forests in tropical montane forests at elevations of 1,000–2,600 m in India, Nepal, China, Myanmar, Thailand, the Malaysian Peninsula, and Indonesia (Schleich and Kästle 2002; Shah and Tiwari 2004; Whitaker and Captain 2004). In Nepal, this species is considered rare and has been reported only from Kaski and Illam Districts (Schleich and Kästle 2002; Rai 2003; Shah and Tiwari 2004) (Fig. 2).

We encountered an adult Black-banded Trinket Snake (Fig. 3A) at 1700 h on 9 May 2019 near forest in Pakhribas, Dhankuta District, Nepal (27°00'44"N, 87°21'29"E; elev. 1,230 m asl). At 1734 h on 24 May 2019, local people killed a snake presumed to be a venomous Banded Krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*) in a village in the same district (27°04'28"N, 87°14'41"E; elev. 1,359 m asl). It was a young *O. porphyraceus* (Fig. 3B). At 0715 h on 26 August 2020, an adult (Fig. 3C) was found next to a house near the Khotang District Hospital, Diktel, Khotang District, Nepal (27°12'47"N 86°47'36"E; elev. 1,595 m asl). This snake was released into nearby natural habitat. These are the first records from Dhankuta and Khotang Districts. This species is likely to have a wider than



**Fig. 3.** An adult (A) and a juvenile (B) Black-banded Trinket Snake (*Oreocryptophis porphyraceus*) from Dhankuta District and an adult (C) from Khotang District, Nepal. Photographs by Binaya Bhusal (A, B) and Nipun Shrestha (C).

documented distribution in Nepal but due to its resemblance to the Banded Krait, people often misidentify and kill it.

All snakes were identified based on descriptions in Schleich and Kästle (2002), Shah and Tiwari (2004), and Whitaker and Captain (2004).

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