



New Sightings of Nagarjunasagar Racers, *Platyceps bholanathi* (Sharma 1976), from Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India

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The Nagardunasager Racer (*Platyceps bholanathi*) is endemic to southern India. The species' distribution is poorly known, with few scattered records that include the type locality in the Nagarjuna Hills in Andhra Pradesh (Sharma 1976), the Sheshachalam Hills in Andhra Pradesh (Guptha et al. 2012), Nalgonda in Hyderabad (Seetharamaraju and Srinivasulu 2013), Thally in Tamil Nadu and Devarkonda in Hyderabad (Ganesh et al. 2013), Bellary in Karnataka (Sharma et al. 2013), the Gingee Hills in Tamil Nadu (Smart et al. 2014), the Rishi Valley in Andhra Pradesh (Deshwal and Becker 2017), Sigur in Tamil Nadu (Samson et al. 2017), and near the Lakshmi Narasimha Temple and in the Sanyasikundu foothills in Tamil Nadu (Melvinselvan et al. 2018).

On 25 December 2019, I encountered two road-killed Nagardunasager Racers (Fig. 1) near the Alipiri Road, Kapila Thirtham, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India (13°38'50.1"N,

79°24'21.8"E). The specimens have been submitted to the Sheshachalam Biodiversity Lab, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India (Voucher Nos. NJS20191225-1 and NJS20191225-2). The identity of the specimens was confirmed by Harshil Patel.

The locality is very near a previous record listed in Guptha et al. (2012). Nevertheless, these new records of the species after eight years suggest that *P. bholanathi* might be more common in suitable habitat than previously thought. Additional surveys are necessary to better understand the distribution of this rare and endemic species.

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Fig. 1. Two road-killed Nagardunasager Racers (*Platyceps bholanathi*) from near the Alipiri Road, Kapila Thirtham, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India. Photographs by the author.

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