



# Recent Records of the Nagarjunasagar Racer, *Platyceps bholanathi* (Sharma 1976), from Telangana, India

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The distribution of the Nagarjunasagar Racer (*Platyceps bholanathi*) includes the Eastern Ghats and dry regions of southern India (Das et al. 1998; Sharma 2003; Wallach et al. 2014). This poorly known species is listed as data deficient (DD) in the IUCN Red List (Srinivasulu et al. 2013).

On 13 July 2018, we rescued a Nagarjunasagar Racer (SVL 627.0 mm, TL 183.0 mm; Fig. 1), at the Golconda Fort, Hyderabad, Telangana, India (17.383809°N, 78.400023°E; WGS 84; elev. 584 m asl). We registered a digital image voucher in the Lee Kong Chian Museum of Natural History at the National University of Singapore (ZRC [IMG] 2.391). The identity of the species was confirmed from the photograph by Dr. Anukul Nath, Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Uttarakhand, India. On 23 September 2019, local residents found a snake of this species at Ameenpur Lake, Snagareddy District, on the outskirts of Telangana, India (Reddy 2019). These are the second and third records from the state of Telangana. The only previous record from the state was a report by Seetharamaraju and Srinivasulu (2013) from Rethi Gali, Golconda Complex in Hyderabad. Although these

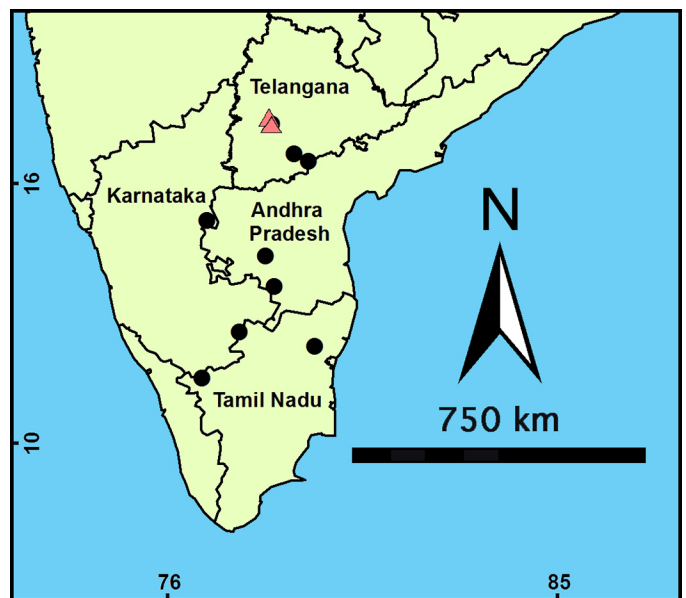


Fig. 2. Map of peninsular India showing current locality records of the Nagarjunasagar Racer (*Platyceps bholanathi*).



Fig. 1. An adult Nagarjunasagar Racer (*Platyceps bholanathi*; ZRC [IMG] 2.391) rescued from the Golconda Fort, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Photograph by B. Laxmi Narayana.

new records are only 0.7 km and about 23 km north of the nearest previous record in the state, they indicate that these snakes, which have been considered very rare, might be more abundant than previously thought. Nevertheless, the paucity of records over the years indicates that the species should be considered a high conservation priority.

Other known localities from peninsular India (Fig. 2) are the Nagarjuna Hills, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh (type locality of Sharma 1976); Kapilatheertham, Seshachalam Hills, Andhra Pradesh (Guptha et al. 2012); Thally, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu, and Devara Konda, Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh (Ganesh et al. 2013); Bellary Gudda, Bellary District, Karnataka (Sharma et al. 2013); Gingee Hills, Tamil Nadu (Smart et al. 2014); Rishi Valley School, Andhra Pradesh (Deshwal and Becker 2017); and Sigur, Nilgiris landscape, Tamil Nadu (Samson et al. 2017).

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