



# First Record of the Green Catsnake, *Boiga cyanea* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril 1854) (Reptilia: Colubridae), from Narcondam Island, India

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The nocturnal, arboreal, rear-fanged, and mildly venomous colubrid snake genus *Boiga* Fizzinger 1826 is represented by two species, the Andaman Catsnake (*Boiga andamanensis* [Wall 1909]) and the Nicobar Catsnake (*B. wallachi* Das 1998) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Whitaker and Captain 2008; Chandramouli 2017). A report of a Green Catsnake (*B. cyanea*) from Galathea on Great Nicobar Island by Das and Chandra (1994) that was based on a juvenile specimen (Zoological Survey of India [ZSI] 8513) was shown to be erroneous and was referred to *B. wallachi* by Chandramouli (2017).

Herein, we present the first authentic record of a Green Catsnake from Narcondam Island in the Andaman Archipelago. We collected an adult male (SVL 1,287 mm) (Fig. 1A, B) in a coconut plantation in a littoral forest on Narcondam Island (13°27.126'N; 94°16.546'E) at 2230 h on 17 October 2020. The specimen was deposited at the Zoological Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional

Centre (ZSI/ANRC/T/13497). Body long and slender (SVL 1,287 mm, tail 428 mm); head distinct from neck, longer (HL 44.5 mm) than broad (HW 28.4) and deep (HD 22.8); eyes large (ED 6.71 mm); nostrils situated much closer to tip of snout tip than to eye; dorsal scales in 22:21:15 rows; ventrals and subcaudals 251 and 126, respectively; cloacal scute single; supralabials 8, 8; infralabials 11, 11; temporals 2+3+3; preoculars 2; postoculars 2; supraoculars triangular; dorsal coloration pale green with black skin evident between scales; venter pale yellow; eyes greenish with a vertically elliptical pupil; and interior of mouth black. A second individual was found dead (Fig. 1C) on Narcondam and was not collected. The specimens recorded herein were easily distinguished from *B. andamanensis* by the black coloration inside the mouth (vs. pink in *B. andamanensis*) and morphometric and meristic characters coincided well with those reported for *B. cyanea* in the literature (Smith 1943; Whitaker and Captain 2004). Our identification was verified by Patrick David.



**Fig. 1.** An adult male Green Catsnake (*Boiga cyanea*) (ZSI/ANRC/T/13497) (A, B) and a dead individual (C) collected on Narcondam Island, Andaman Islands. Photographs by A.K. Das.

After the invalidation of an earlier report of *B. cyanea* from Great Nicobar by Chandramouli (2017), this is the first authentic report of *B. cyanea* from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Despite several expeditions to Narcondam (summarized by Raman et al. 2013), *B. cyanea* had never been reported. *Boiga cyanea* was not recorded from any islands other than Narcondam, and only the Andaman Catsnake (*B. andamanensis*) was observed on other islands of the Andaman Archipelago.

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