



# First Record of the Laudankia Vinesnake, *Ahaetulla laudankia* Deepak, Narayanan, Sarkar, Dutta, and Mohapatra 2019, from Assam, India

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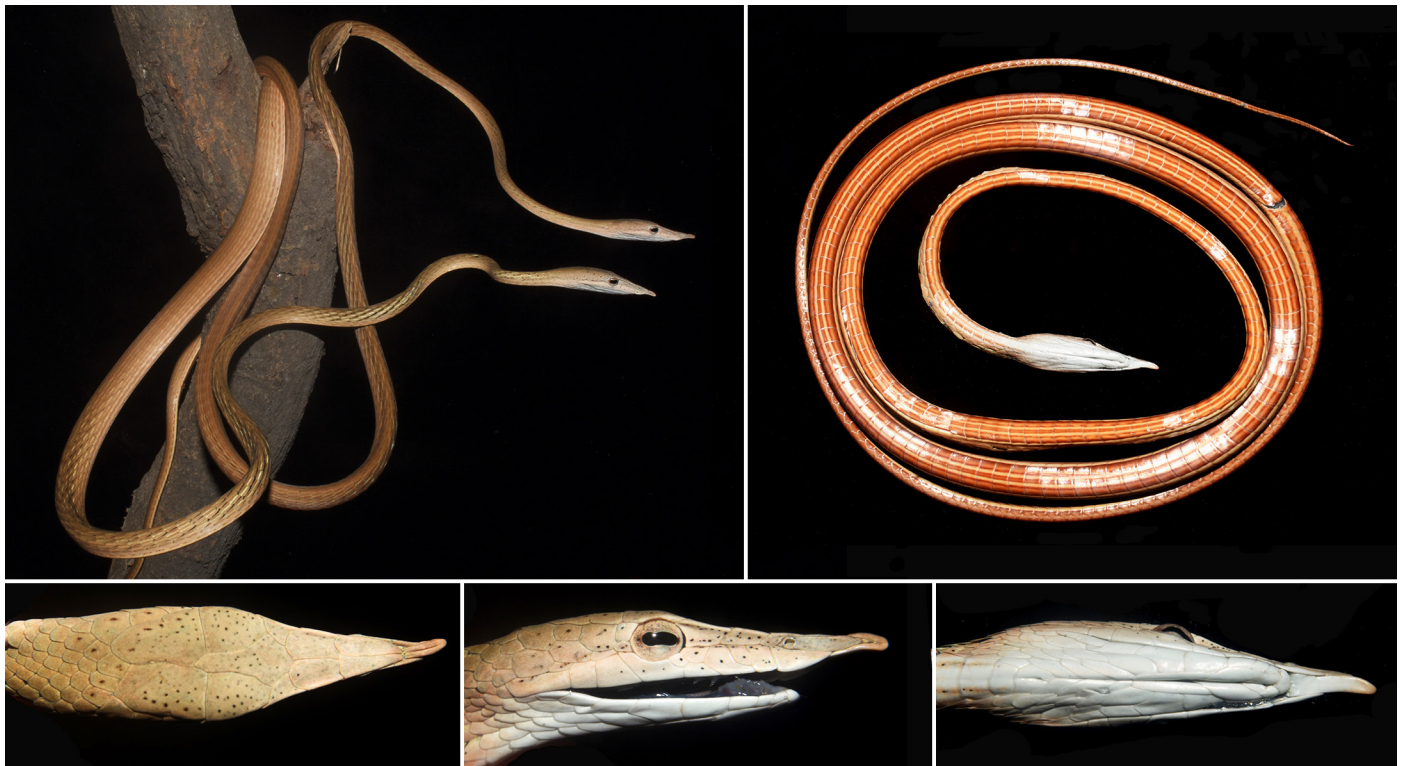
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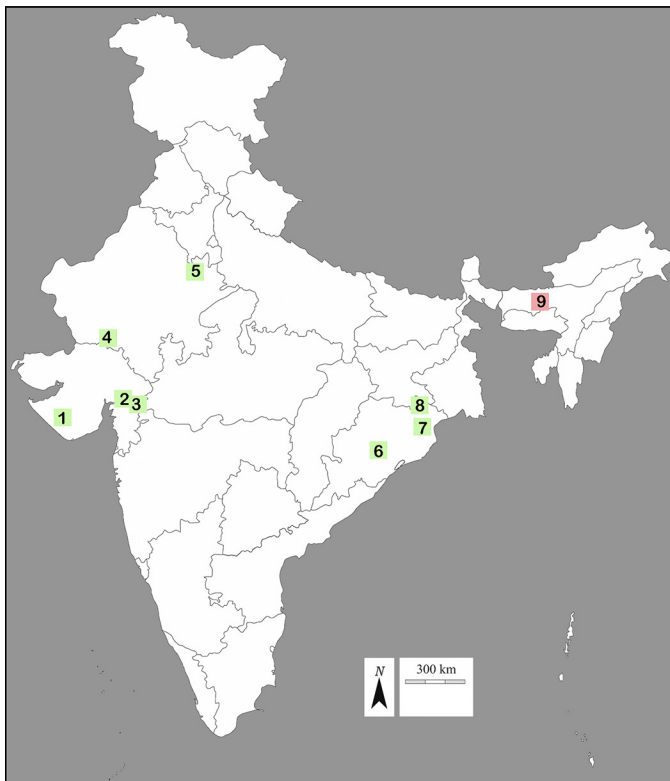
Vinesnakes in the genus *Ahaetulla* (Link 1807) are widely distributed throughout southern and southeastern Asia. The genus comprises 19 currently recognized species, of which 14 are known to occur in India (Uetz et al. 2021). The recently described Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*) is diagnosed by the presence of a dermal appendage, 192–202 ventrals, 154–185 divided subcaudals, dorsal scale rows 15-15-13 or 15-15-11, dorsum ochre brown/chestnut brown with black spots, venter light orange/brick red with a pair of mid-ventral whitish lines (Deepak et al. 2019). Known localities

(all in India) for the species are in Bangriposi, Mayurbhanj District; Nilagiri, Balasore District; Madhapur, Boudh District in Odisha; Mount Abu, Rajputana, Sariska Tiger Reserve, in Rajasthan; and Junagadh, Chhota Udaipur, and Vadodara in Gujarat (Deepak et al. 2019; Patel et al. 2019; Sengupta and Chandramouli 2020). Herein, we report the first record of *A. laudankia* from Assam in Northeast India.

On 7 September 2020, we rescued two individuals (a male and a female) at around 1300 h from nearby human settlements in the Bishnupur area of Guwahati, Assam



**Fig. 1.** Laudankia Vinesnakes (*Ahaetulla laudankia*) from Guwhati, Assam, India. Photographs by Jayaditya Purkayastha.



**Fig. 2.** Map of India showing previously known localities of the Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*) in green: Junagadh (1), Vadodara (2), and Chhota Udaipur (3) in Gujarat; Mount Abu (4) and the Sariska Tiger Reserve (5) in Rajasthan; Madhapur (6), Nilagiri (7), and Bangriposi (8) in Odisha; and the new locality in red: Guwahati (9) in Assam.

(26°09'32.60"N, 91°44'34.80"E). Both snakes (Fig. 1) agree with the original description of the species. The morphometric and meristic data for the two individuals are as follows (male/female): Snout-vent length 757/771 mm, tail length

376/389 mm, dorsal scale rows 15/15/13, ventrals 206/207, subcaudals 161/153, supralabials 8/8 (5th touching the eye), infralabials 9/9, preocular 1/1, postoculars 2/2, presuboculars 2/2, temporals 2+2 in the male and 1+2/2+2 in the female, and cloacal scute divided. A photographic voucher of the male was deposited at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore (ZRC(IMG) 2.561). The identity of the species was confirmed from photographs by H.T. Lalremsanga.

This record from Assam is the easternmost record for the species and it extends the range by 685 km northeastward from the previous easternmost record in Bangriposi, Orissa (Fig. 2). *Ahaetulla laudankia* becomes the thirtieth species of snake recorded from the urban landscape of Guwahati (Purkayastha 2018).

### Acknowledgement

We are indebted to the Forest Department of Assam and the local people of Bishnupur, Guwahati, for their help and support.

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