



# A Common Bronze-backed Treesnake, *Dendrelaphis tristis* (Daudin 1803), Laying Eggs in a Fallen Baya Weaver’s, *Ploceus philippinus* (Linnaeus 1766), Nest in Odisha, India

Sandipt Maharana<sup>1</sup>, Swarup Fullonton<sup>2</sup>, Shreya Pandey<sup>2</sup>, and Aurobindo Samal<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation (WBC), Talcher, Angul, Odisha–759100, India (sandpit.maharana2@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Amity Institute of Forestry and Wildlife, Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh–201301, India (fullontonswarup@gmail.com, shreyapandey.2244@gmail.com [corresponding author])

<sup>3</sup>Earth Crusaders Organisation (ECO), Bhubaneswar, Odisha–751019, India (aurobindo.cse@gmail.com)

The Common Bronze-backed Treesnake (*Dendrelaphis tristis*) is an arboreal colubrid that ranges across southern Asia from Pakistan in the west to Myanmar in the east and from northern India, Nepal, and Bhutan in the north south through most of India to Sri Lanka (Joshi et al. 2019; Uetz et al. 2021). Herein we document an instance of the Common Bronze-backed Treesnake laying eggs in an abandoned fallen nest of a Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*).

At about 1400 h on 24 August 2020, after receiving a snake rescue call from Talcher, Odisha, India (21.142586°N, 85.198462°E), we encountered a female *D. tristis* in a fallen Baya Weaver’s nest. The snake appeared to be guarding three eggs (Fig. 1). Local residents were cautious and unaware that the snake was not venomous. Our team assured them that

the snake was harmless and would leave without causing any problems. We took photographs of the snake in her nest without disturbing it.

Female *D. tristis* lay eggs “in a tree hole or old bird nest” (R. Whitaker in Singh 2020). However, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first record of a Common Bronze-backed Treesnake laying eggs in a Baya Weaver’s nest.

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**Fig. 1.** A female Common Bronze-backed Treesnake (*Dendrelaphis tristis*) appears to be “guarding” her eggs in a fallen abandoned nest of a Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*). Photographs by Sandipt Maharana.

### Literature Cited

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