



# A Leucistic Common Wolfsnake, *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus 1758), from Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

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Leucism, a recessive condition frequently considered a type of incomplete albinism, involves reduced or absent integumentary pigmentation with retention of color in the eyes, which usually are dark (Lobo and Sreepada 2016; Deshmukh et al. 2020). Leucistic snakes usually are white and lack distinct patterns (Pathirana et al. 2018). These snakes rarely reach adulthood in nature because they lack the ability to avoid detection by blending into their habitat (Kravchuk and Watson 2020).

Common Wolfsnakes (*Lycodon aulicus*) range throughout mainland India (Whitaker and Captain 2015) and into Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and China (Uetz et al. 2021). At approximately 0530 h on 19 August 2019, DC received a call from residents near Bhugaon Village, Nagpur District, Maharashtra, India, regarding a snake in their garden. In response to the call, he rescued a very pale snake (Fig. 1) (total length ca. 70 cm), which we identified as a Common Wolfsnake, despite its lack of coloration, based on keys and descriptions in Daniel (2002), Khaire (2014), and Whitaker and Captain (2015). After being photographed, the snake was released into suitable nearby habitat.

### Acknowledgements

We thank Mr. Nariman Vazifdar, Mr. Rajat Tirpude, and Mr. Anurag Londhe for guidance; Wild Animal and Reptile Rescue Foundation and The Nature’s Eye Organization for their constant support; and those who encouraged us to write this paper.

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Fig. 1. A leucistic Common Wolfsnake (*Lycodon aulicus*) from near Bhugaon Village, Nagpur District, Maharashtra, India. Photographs by Dhiraj Chavan.