



A New Record of the Condanarus Sandsnake, *Psammophis condanarus* (Merrem 1820), from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

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The Condanarus Sandsnake (*Psammophis condanarus*) ranges from Pakistan through northern India and Nepal to Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Laos (Limb et al. 2021; Uetz et al. 2022). In India, the species has been documented from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal (Whitaker and Captain 2004; Chandra and Gajbe 2005; Saikia et al. 2007; Ganesh et al. 2017; Vishal et al. 2020; Swamy et al. 2021).

I herein add a new distributional record for the species based on a road-killed subadult male (508 mm total length) (Fig. 1) found on 21 September 2021 on the Guna-Bhopal Road in an area of dry deciduous and scrub forest dominated by agricultural land near Bhamora Village, Bhopal District,

Madhya Pradesh, India (23°40'14.94"N, 77°19'2.19"E; elev. 482 m asl; Figs. 2–3). This site is approximately 230 km east of the record of Chandra and Gajbe (2005) and 270 km west of the record of Vishal et al. (2020), respectively. Photographic vouchers have been deposited in the Museum of the Science Lab (Department of Zoology), Government College Suthaliya, Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh, India (IMG-GCS-21-B.03). The specimen was tentatively identified using descriptions in Whitaker and Captain (2004), Ganesh et al. (2017), and Mohapatra et al. (2021), and this was confirmed from photographs by Dr. Ashwani Wanganeo, Former Head, Department of Environmental Science & Limnology, Barkatullah University, Bhopal and Dr. Pratyush P. Mohapatra, Zoological Survey of India, Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India.



Fig. 1. A road-killed Condanarus Sandsnake (*Psammophis condanarus*): Dorsal (A) and ventral (B) views of the body, dorsal view of the head (C), and the dorsum at midbody (D). Photographs by Amit Manhas.

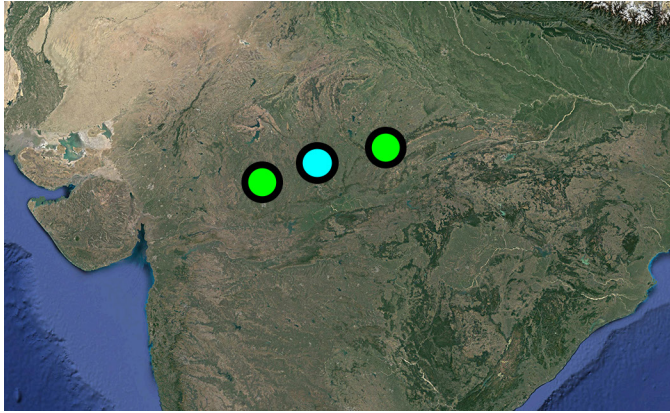


Fig. 2. Google Earth® image of central India showing previously documented localities of the Condanarus Sandsnake (*Psammophis condanarus*) marked with green symbols and the new record indicated by the blue symbol.



Fig. 3. Habitat where a road-killed Condanarus Sandsnake (*Psammophis condanarus*) was found at Bhamora Village, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. Photograph by Amit Manhas.

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