



# First Record of the Sri Lankan Flying Snake, *Chrysopelea taprobanica* (Smith 1943), from Karnataka, India

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The Sri Lankan Flying Snake (*Chrysopelea taprobanica*), originally described by Smith (1943) from Sri Lanka, had previously been considered a color morph of *C. ornata* (Shaw 1802). It was long considered a Sri Lankan endemic (e.g. Wallach et al. 2014) until it was recorded from the Sechachalam Biosphere Reserve in Andhra Pradesh, India (Guptha et al. 2015). Later, Narayanan et al. (2017) recorded *C. cf. taprobanica* from riparian and dry deciduous forest in the Javadu Hills of the Eastern Ghats and from a human settlement near the foothills of the Western Ghats in Kalampalayam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. However, this species had been mentioned previously by Constable (1949) as occurring in Madras, India, and a damaged specimen (incorrectly labelled as *C. ornata*) from India was deposited in the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (NMW 27287:34), suggesting the possibility that other such specimens of the species collected before 1943 were deposited and mislabelled in other museums (Somaweera et al. 2015). Herein, we provide an additional record of *C. taprobanica* from Karnataka, India, the first record of the species from the state.

At 1053 h (IST) on 15 January 2022, Praveen Kumar found a Sri Lankan Flying Snake (Fig. 1) coiled under a piece of cloth at a campsite in dry deciduous forest in the

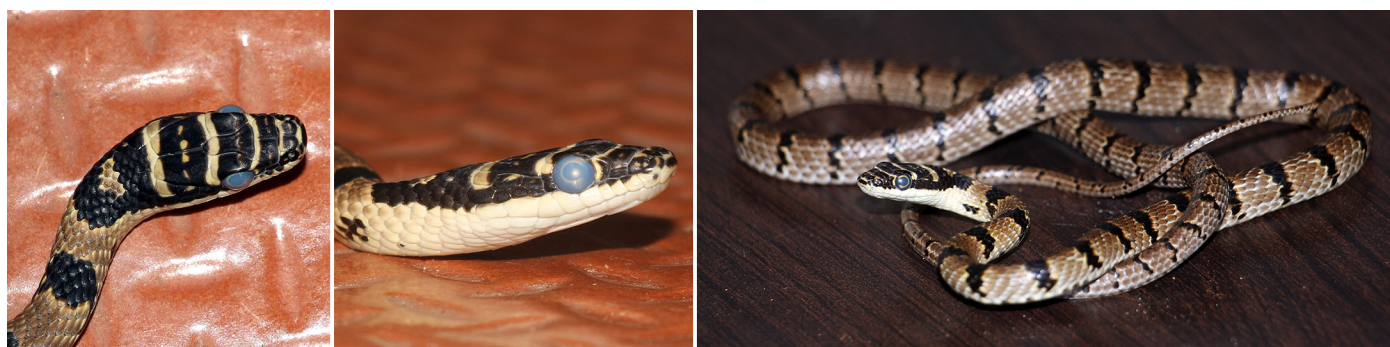
Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary near Solaba Village, Malavalli Taluk, Karnataka, India (12.38423, 77.24730) (Fig. 2). Photographic vouchers were accessioned in the University of Kansas Digital Archive (KUDA 13940). The identity of the species was confirmed from photographs by Anuj Shinde.

### Acknowledgements

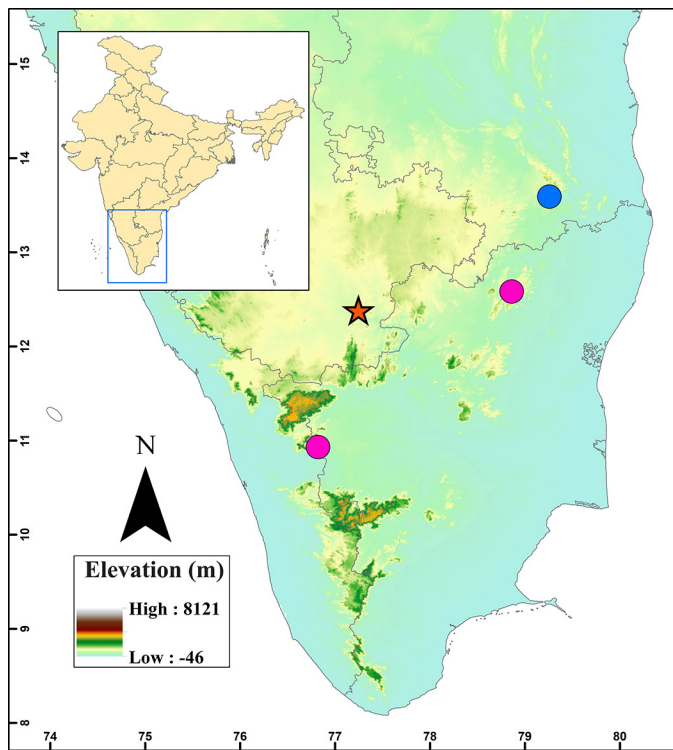
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**Figure 1.** A Sri Lankan Flying Snake (*Chrysopelea taprobanica*; KUDA 13940) from dry deciduous forest in the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary near Solaba Village, Malavalli Taluk, Karnataka, India. Photographs by B. Shashi Kumar.



**Figure 2.** A map of southern India showing localities of recently published records of the Sri Lankan Flying Snake (*Chrysopelea taprobanica*). The blue dot marks the locality reported in Guptha et al. (2015), the pink dots mark localities documented in Narayanan et al. (2017), and the red star marks the new locality reported herein.

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