



First Confirmed Record of the Bengalese Kukri Snake, *Oligodon dorsalis* (Gray 1834), from Assam, India

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The Bengalese Kukri Snake (*Oligodon dorsalis*) has been reported from India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand. It is a relatively rare species within its range and is known only from a handful of localities (Uetz et al. 2022). The known locality records of the species are in Bhutan: Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (Wangyal 2011); Bangladesh: Chittagong Hills and Janki Chorain Moulvibazar District of Sylhet Division (Smith 1943; Hakim et al. 2020); Myanmar: Mansi and Katha in Chin Hills and N'Changyang in Kachin State (Smith 1943; Wogan 2008). *Oligodon dorsalis* was also recorded from Thailand without any locality data (David 2004). In India, the species has been recorded only from the northeastern states (Ahmed 2009), in particular from the Garo and Khasi Hills in the present-day state of Meghalaya, and from the Naga Hills in the present-day state of Nagaland (Smith 1943; Mathew 1992). Hmar et al. (2020) also reported the species from Reiek Community Reserve Forest in the Mamit District of Mizoram. Although the species is mentioned from Assam (Wall 1910; Smith 1943), at that time the state was undivided and consisted of the present day

states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland, which later became separated from the parent state in the years 1972, 1970, 1972, and 1963, respectively. Consequently, no confirmed locality records of *O. dorsalis* exists within the present-day state of Assam. The record of Wall (1910) from Namsang mentioned from Assam is now in the present-day state of Arunachal Pradesh and Smith's mention of the Garo Hills and Khasi Hills; Naga Hills are in the present-day state of Maghalaya and Nagaland, respectively. Herein we provide the first record of *O. dorsalis* with precise locality data from Assam.

Around 1100h on 19 June 2022, we encountered an *O. dorsalis* (Fig. 1) hiding under fallen bamboo leaves adjacent to a bamboo forest within the Garbhanga Reserve Forest in Assam, India (26.056749°N, 91.710351°E; Fig. 2). The female individual was 330 mm in length with 171 ventrals, 34 subcaudals, 7 supralabials with the third and fourth touching the eyes, and 8 infralabials with the fourth being the largest.

A photographic voucher of the female was deposited at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National



Fig. 1. A Bengalese Kukri Snake (*Oligodon dorsalis*) from the Garbhanga Reserve Forest, Assam, India. Photograph by Mathuranath Dey.

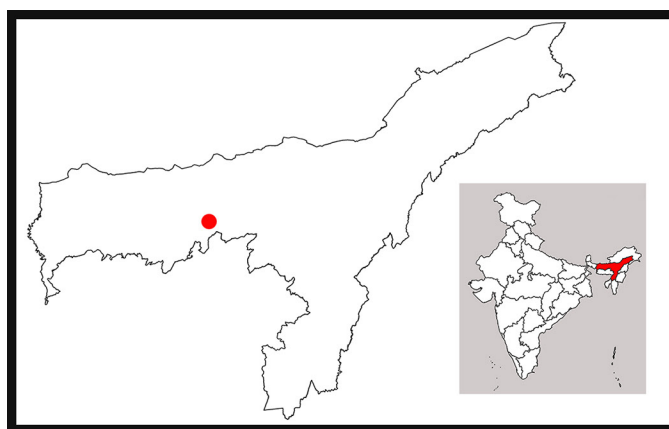


Fig. 2. Map of Assam showing the locality record of the Bengalese Kukri Snake (*Oligodon dorsalis*) from the Garbhanga Reserve Forest (solid red circle).

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