



Record of the Calamaria Reed Snake, *Liopeltis calamaria* (Günther 1858), in the Jogimatti Forest Reserve, Karnataka, India

Mahesh Bilaskar

Department of Environmental Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Ganeshkhind Road, Pune- 411007, Maharashtra, India
(rishi08sep@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7600-8955>)

The Calamaria Reed Snake, *Liopeltis calamaria*, is a rare but widely distributed non-venomous snake (Wall 1919; De Silva 1969, 1980; De Silva 1990; Das 1994; Batuwita 2001; Somaweera 2006), which belongs to the Colubridae family. Günther (1858) first described this species as *Cyclophis calamaria* from Sri Lanka (Type locality). The species was subsequently reported from various parts of India (Wall 1921; Smith 1943; Srinivasulu et al. 2014; Chunekar and Alekar 2015; Narayanan 2016). The existing literature revealed scanty information on the distribution of the species (Amarasinghe et al. 2020). Apart from India, this species has also been recorded from Sri Lanka and Nepal (Uetz et al. 2021). Within India, the distribution of this colubrid snake is known from ten states: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand (Table 1). Recent records of the species within India are from Dalraghat Village, Solan District (Bajaj 2022); Vellore, Gingee Hills (Ganesh et al. 2018); Kalakadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Narayanan

2016; Smith 1943; Johnsingh 2001); Ratangad, Maharashtra (Chunekar and Alekar 2015); Meghamalai Hills, Tamil Nadu (Bhupathy and Sathishkumar 2013); and Kaas Plateau, Maharashtra (Chikane and Bhosale 2012). According to published literature, the current sighting record at Chitradurga District (No. 30 in Table 1 and Figs. 1–2) is the second record for Karnataka. The closest record to the current site lies approximately 200 km to the south (No. 10 in Table 1).

The Jogimatti forest is located 10 km south of Chitradurga City spread between 14.03–14.2 N and 76.35–76.45 E. The reserve covers 10,048.97 ha of area. Jogimatti forest is dry scrub jungle with bushes and open grazing patches; the area receives an average annual rainfall of 580 mm (Harisha et al. 2008).

At 1023 h on 23 September 2017, during a bird survey in Jogimatti Reserve Forest (14.18 N, 76.42 E; elevation 949 m), I observed a roadkilled *L. calamaria* (Fig. 1). I took photographs of the snake for scale counts and collected morphological data for further identification. The total length and



Fig. 1. Roadkilled *Liopeltis calamaria* (Günther 1858) in the Jogimatti Forest Reserve, Chitradurga, Karnataka, India. Photographs © Mahesh Bilaskar.

Table 1. Published locality records of *Liopeltis calamaria* (Günther 1858) from the Indian sub-continent.

No.	State	Location	Reference
1	Tamil Nadu	Shevaroy Hills	Beddome 1863
2	Maharashtra	Mahabaleswar	Phipson 1888; Wall 1921
3	Jharkhand	Surguja, Chota Nagpur	Slater 1891
4	Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli	Slater 1891
5	Maharashtra	Matheran	Boulenger 1894
6	Tamil Nadu	Sivagiri	Boulenger 1894
7	Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri	Boulenger 1894
8	Kerala	Munnar	Ferguson 1902
9	Kerala	Wayanad	Wall 1919
10	Karnataka	Bangalore Urban	Wall 1921; Smith 1943; Kalki et al. 2021
11	West Bengal	Buxa Doors	Wall 1924
12	Uttar Pradesh	Karkhana, Pilibhit	Wall 1924; Smith 1943
13	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda	Wall 1924; Smith 1943
14	Uttarakhand	Almora	Wall 1924
15	Maharashtra	Panchgani	Mullan 1927
16	Tamil Nadu	Kalakadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve	Smith 1943; Johnsingh 2001; Narayanan 2016
17	Tamil Nadu	Sriviliputhur Hills	Malhotra and Davis 1991
18	Andhra Pradesh	Nallamalai Hills	Rao et al. 2005
19	Tamil Nadu	Kambakkam Hills	Ganesh and Asokan 2010
20	Maharashtra	Kaas Plateau	Chikane and Bhosale 2012
21	Tamil Nadu	Meghamalai Hills	Bhupathy and Sathishkumar 2013
22	Maharashtra	Ratangad	Chunekar and Alekar 2015
23	Tamil Nadu	Vellore	Ganesh et al. 2018
24	Tamil Nadu	Gingee	Ganesh et al. 2018
25	Tamil Nadu	Anaikatti	Ganesh et al. 2020
26	Tamil Nadu	Anaimalai	Ganesh et al. 2020
27	Tamil Nadu	Agasthyamalai	Ganesh et al. 2020
28	Andhra Pradesh	Araku Hills	Ganesh et al. 2020
29	Himachal Pradesh	Dalraghat Village, Solan	Bajaj 2022
30	Karnataka	Jogimatti, Chitradurga	This paper

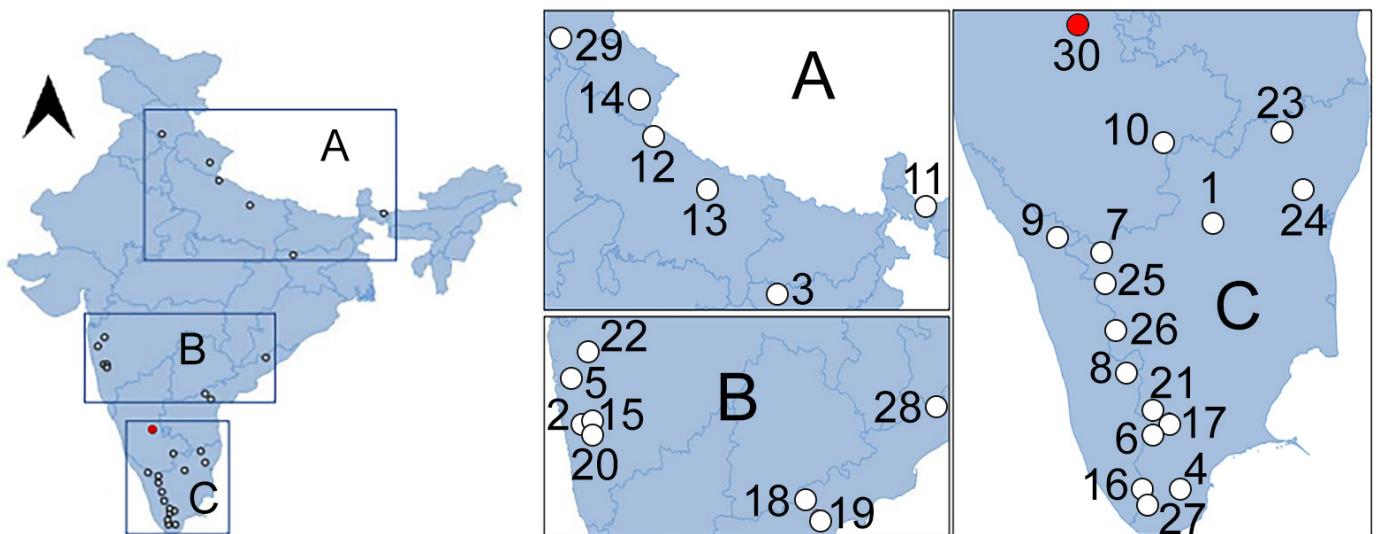


Fig. 2. Distribution records of *Liopeltis calamaria* (Günther 1858) from India. Numbers correspond to those in Table 1.

snout-vent-length of the individual were 305 mm and 215 mm, respectively. Dorsal scales in 15:15:15 rows, subcaudals 71 paired, ventrals 140, anal divided, preocular 1, postoculars 2, supralabial 6 with 3rd and 4th touching the eye. All key diagnostic characters resembled those in Smith (1943).

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