New Distribution Record of the Assam Hill Wormsnake, *Trachischium monticola* (Cantor 1839) (Natricidae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India

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Studies on the ophidian fauna of the eastern Himalayan state, Arunachal Pradesh, are limited. Notable contributions are those of Sanyal and Gayen (1987), Captain and Bhatt (2000), Bhatt (2004), Borang and Bhatt (2001), Borang (2003), Sanyal and Gayen (2006), and Agarwal et al. (2010). The genus *Trachischium* has seven species and is distributed in the Indian Himalayans, Bhutan, Nepal, and China (Uetz et al. 2022). Of these, *T. aptei* Bhosale, Gowande, and Mirza 2019; *T. fuscum* (Blyth 1854); and *T. subantai* Raha et al. 2018 are endemic to India. *Trachischium monticola* (Cantor 1839) is distributed in Bangladesh, China, and the states of Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh in India (Sharma 2003; Uetz et al. 2022). In Arunachal Pradesh, *T. monticola* is reported from the Papum Pare District (Borang et al. 2005); East Siang and Lohit Districts (Sanyal and Gayen 2006); and Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, West Kameng District (Agarwal et al. 2010). Herein, we report a new district record of *T. monticola* from the Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh.

On 23 September 2021, the second author and her team collected a juvenile Assam Hill Wormsnake (SVL 173.98 mm, TL 26.53 mm) (Fig. 1) from the bank of the Pas River, Pistana, Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh (27.507 N, 93.637 E; elev. 1,152 m asl) (Fig. 2). The specimen was euthanized using ethyl acetate, fixed in a buffered 8% formalin solution, and then transferred to 70% ethyl alcohol. The specimen was deposited and cataloged in the National Zoological Collection (NZC) of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre (APRC), Itanagar, bearing the catalog number APRC/R-185. Some of the diagnostic characteristics of this specimen are: scales in 15 rows round the body; dorsally brownish with
two longitudinal lines, light yellowish dorsolateral lines present on either side, prominent yellowish spots present either side of the neck; 121 gastrosteges, and 29 subcaudals. Based on these morphological characters, the specimen was identified as *T. monticola* (Sharma 2002, 2003; Sanyal and Gayen 2006). This report documents the first occurrence record of *T. monticola* in the Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh, India.

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**Literature Cited**


