



A Note on the Distribution of the Common Mock Viper, *Psammodynastes pulverulentus* (Boie 1827), from the Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh, India

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The Common Mock Viper (*Psammodynastes pulverulentus*) ranges from northeastern India through Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia, and Taiwan to the Philippines (Koch 2012; Miller and Zug 2016; Uetz et al. 2023). The species is listed as being of least concern on the IUCN Red List (Wogan et al. 2022) and is legally protected under Schedule-II in The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 (Ministry of Law and Justice 2022).

Kundu et al. (2021) showed the Indian distribution of the species extending from the northeastern states to the Mahendragiri Hills of the Eastern Ghats in Odisha based on a record by Mohapatra et al. (2010). However, Ramachandran and Raju (2020) provided a photographic record of *P. pulverulentus* from Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh. Herein, we present a second record from Andhra Pradesh and the first with a voucher specimen to verify the presence of the species in the state.

In July 2022 we collected a road-killed Common Mock Viper from the Mareduhilli Forest Range in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, India (17.5894, 81.6772) (Fig. 1).

Table 1. A comparison of the Common Mock Viper (*Psammodynastes pulverulentus*) (FBRC-ZSI-VER-97) from the Mareduhilli Forest Range in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh with data in Whitaker and Captain (2004). Measurements are in mm.

	W&C (2004)	New Record
Snout-vent length	—	305
Tail length	—	65.02
Total body length	150–770	365.02
Scale rows	17:17:15	17:17:15
Ventrals	144–176	160
Subcaudals	44–78	60
Dorsal midbody scales	—	18
Preoculars	2–4	2
Postoculars	2–4	2
Temporals	2 + 3	2 + 2
Supralabials	8	8
Infralabials	—	7



Figure 1. A roadkilled Common Mock Viper (*Psammodynastes pulverulentus*) from the Mareduhilli Forest Range in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, India. Photographs by Bharath Bhupathi.

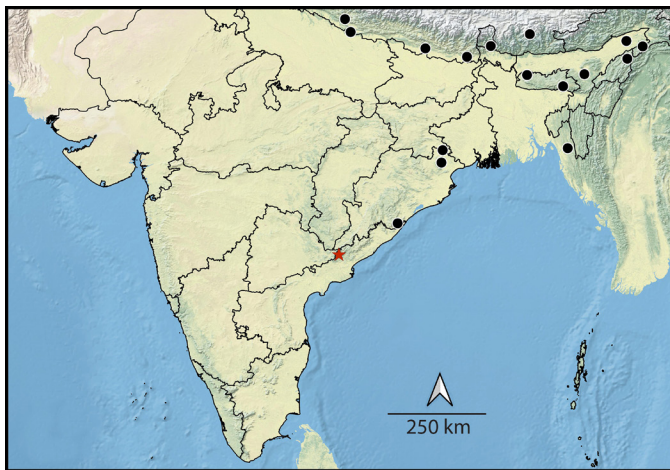


Figure 2. The current known distribution of the Common Mock Viper (*Psammodynastes pulverulentus*) in India and adjacent Nepal and Bhutan. Black dots mark previously documented localities and the red star indicates the new record in the Mareduhilli Forest Range in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, India.

Based on the descriptions available in the literature (David and Vogel 1996; Whitaker and Captain 2004; Mohapatra et al. 2010; Grismer 2011; I. Das 2012; Wallach et al. 2014; Miller and Zug. 2016; A. Das et al. 2016), we identified the snake as *Psammodynastes pulverulentus* (see also Table 1), which was confirmed by Pratyush P. Mohapatra. The specimen was deposited in the National Zoological Collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Freshwater Biology Regional Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana (FBRC-ZSI-VER-97). The new record extends the known range in India about 160 km to the east-southeast (Fig. 2).

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