



# A New Locality Record for Castoe’s Coralsnake (*Calliophis castoe*) from Rajapur, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra, India

Siddharth Parab<sup>1</sup>, Vinayak Puranik<sup>2</sup>, Anil Kubal<sup>3</sup>, and Purvendra Jathar<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>YGS. CHS., Kopri, Thane-400603, India (siddharthmparab@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Raghunath Bhuvan, Sandu-wadi, 7th Road, Chembur Mumbai-400071, India (catch2vinayak420@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup>5, Pragati CHS., Savarkar Nagar, Kopri, Thane-400603, India (ampk0901@gmail.com)

<sup>4</sup>Gardenia Building, Prestige Residency, Waghbill, GB Road Thane-400615, India (sameerjathar@hotmail.com)

Castoe’s Coralsnake (*Calliophis castoe*), an Indian endemic known to occur at both low and high elevations (0–750 m asl; Uetz et al. 2023), has been recorded in Dodamarg, Sindhudurg District (Satose et al. 2022) and Kolhapur District (Jadhav et al. 2021), both in Maharashtra, as well as from the states of Goa and Karnataka (Smith et al. 2012) (Fig. 1).

On 22 October 2022, Mr. Hemant Kamble responded to a snake distress call from Pendkhale village, Rajapur, Maharashtra, India (16.727781 73.480833; elev. 93 m asl). The snake had hidden in a crevice between laterite stones in an area of areca nut tree cultivation near a small river (Fig. 2). The habitat had dense vegetation with high humidity (~78%) and an ambient temperature (~27 °C) that was cooler than in more open areas nearby.

We identified the 670-mm long snake with the pink, white-tipped tongue as a Castoe’s Coralsnake (*Calliophis castoe*) (Fig. 3) based on descriptions in Smith et al. (2012). Its identity was confirmed from photographs by Dr. Varad Giri and photographic vouchers were deposited in the University of Kansas Digital Archive (KUDA 13851–4). The snake was released in suitable habitat and Mr. Kamble conducted a brief awareness session for local residents regarding snakes and their significance for the environment.

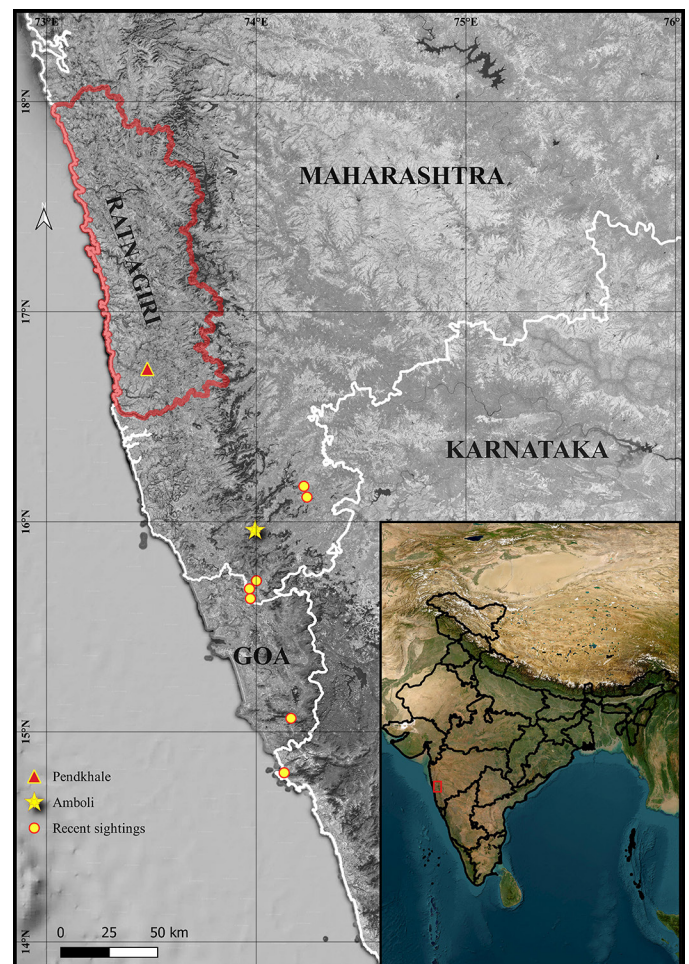
This new record suggests that the range of *C. castoe* encompasses a larger area in the Western Ghats than previously documented.

### Acknowledgements

We thank Dr. Varad Giri for his valuable guidance and verification of the snake’s identity, Mr. Hemant Kamble for providing us details of the rescue site, Mr. Anand Padhye and Mr. Akshay Padhye for their valuable contribution in the field, Mr. Bhushan Arekar for guidance around Rajapur Taluka, and Mr. Mahesh Ithape, Mr. Uday Karande Mr. Sumit Pol, and Dr. Vrushali Mukadam for their contributions.

### Literature Cited

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**Figure 1.** Distribution of Castoe’s Coralsnake (*Calliophis castoe*) in India. The red triangle indicates the new record from Pendkhale, Rajapur, Maharashtra, India.



**Figure 2.** Habitat of Castoe's Coralsnake (*Calliophis castoe*) from Pendkhale, Rajapur, Maharashtra, India. Photographs by Vinayak Puranik.



**Figure 3.** Castoe's Coralsnake (*Calliophis castoe*) rescued from Pendkhale, Rajapur, Maharashtra, India. Photographs by Vinayak Puranik.

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