



First Record of Salazar’s Pitviper, *Trimeresurus salazar* (Mirza, Bhosale, Phansalkar, Sawant, Gowande, and Patel 2020), from Tripura, India

Antara Chowdhury¹, Arnab Deb², and Jayaditya Purkayastha³

¹Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand 249193, India

²Assam Down Town University, Panikhaiti, Guwahati, Assam 781026, India

³Help Earth, RaghunathChoudhury Path, Lachitnagar, Guwahati, Assam 781007, India (mail.jayaditya@gmail.com)

The type series of Salazar’s Pitviper (*Trimeresurus salazar*), one of the most recently described species of pitviper (Mirza et al. 2020) from Northeast India, was collected in the Pakke Tiger Reserve, East Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, India (26.968790, 93.013984). Mirza et al. (2020) also mentioned the species occurring in Assam. Rathee et al. (2021) recorded the species from the states of Meghalaya and Assam. *Trimeresurus salazar* can be distinguished from all other green pitvipers in northeastern India based on body color (yellowish-green vs. deep green in other species), an orange or reddish stripe running from behind the eyes to the nape in males (vs. stripeless, with a white stripe, or with bicolored stripes [red and white] in other species).

At about 1500 h on 24 October 2021, in a kitchen garden in Banikya Chowmuhani, Agartala, Tripura, India (23.864958, 91.342401) (Fig. 1), we encountered a female *T. salazar* (Fig. 2). The snake matched the morphological



Figure 2. Photograph of a Salazar’s Pitviper (*Trimeresurus salazar*) from Banikya Chowmuhani in Agartala City of Tripura State, India. Photograph by Antara Chowdhury.

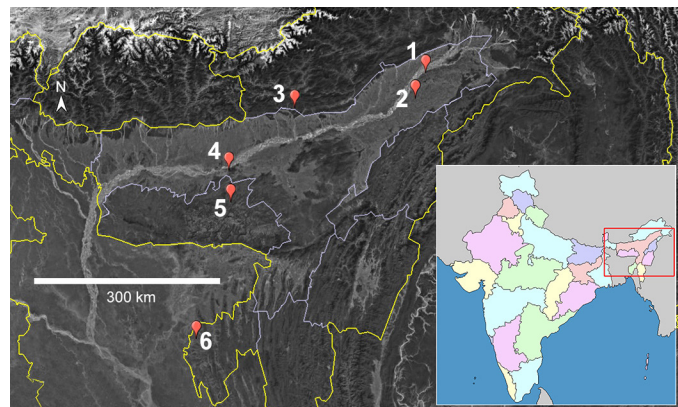


Figure 1. A Google Map[®] of northeastern India showing known locality records of Salazar’s Pitviper (*Trimeresurus salazar*): Assam: Dibrugarh (1), Demow (2), Guwahati (4); Arunachal Pradesh: Pakke Tiger Reserve (3); Meghalaya: Umroi, Ri-Bhoi (5); Tripura: Banikya Chowmuhani, Agartala (6).

description and coloration of *T. salazar* (Mirza et al. 2020; Rathee et al. 2021). A photographic voucher of the snake was deposited at the Zoological Reference Collection in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore (ZRC(IMG) 2.612).

This is the first record of *T. salazar* from the state of Tripura, India, and extends the range of the species by ~220 km southward from the nearest locality at Umroi, Meghalaya.

Literature Cited

Mirza, Z.A., H.S. Bhosale, P.U. Phansalkar, M. Sawant, G.G. Gowande, and H. Patel. 2020. A new species of green pit vipers of the genus *Trimeresurus* Lacépède, 1804 (Reptilia, Serpentes, Viperidae) from western Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Zoosystematics and Evolution* 96: 123–138. <https://doi.org/10.39571/zse.96.48431>.

Rathee, Y.S., J. Purkayastha, S. Dalal, and H.T. Lalremsanga. 2021. First record of Salazar’s Pitviper (*Trimeresurus salazar*) from Meghalaya, India, with comments on hemipenes. *Reptiles & Amphibians* 28: 131–136. <https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v28i1.15369>.