



Maximum Length Records for the Banded Racer (*Platyceps plinii*) and the Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*) and a New Geographic Record from Gujarat, India

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Herein we report maximum length records for two species of Indian snakes encountered in Gujarat, India, the second of which also represents a geographic range extension as the first record from The Dangs District in southern Gujarat, India.

The Banded Racer, *Platyceps plinii* (Merrem 1820), is a medium-sized, non-venomous diurnally active snake (Whitaker and Captain 2008). At 1015 h on 4 April 2011, we obtained an adult female *P. plinii* that had been rescued from Khajod, Gujarat, India (21.1161423 N, 72.7880292 E) (Fig. 1), that measured 1,853.6 mm in total length. Previous maximum lengths recorded in the literature were 1,347 mm (Whitaker and Captain 2008) and 1,480 mm (Deepak et al.

2021). A photographic voucher has been deposited in the University of Kansas Digital Archive (KUDA 13922).

We found a road-killed adult male of the recently described Laudankia Vinesnake, *Ahaetulla laudankia* Deepak, Narayan, Sarkar, Dutta, and Mohapatra 2019, at 1700 h on 8 March 2012 on the Purna-Mahal Road outside the Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, The Dangs District, Gujarat, India (20.943367 N, 73.724249 E) (Fig. 2). At 0850 h on 23 May 2023, we also sighted a subadult in the Purna Wildlife Sanctuary (20.923811 N, 73.656654 E) but were unable to capture or photograph it before it fled into nearby vegetation. Based on morphology, morphometrics, and scalation we identified the roadkill as *Ahaetulla laudankia*, which was con-



Figure 1. Longest recorded Banded Racer (*Platyceps plinii*) (KUDA 13922) from Khajod, Gujarat, India (left); DSP holding the snake, note that the curved body of the snake indicates that it is slightly longer (1,853.6 mm) than the author is tall (175 cm) (right). Photographs by Dikansh S. Parmar (left) and Vishal Mistry (right).



Figure 2. A road-killed Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*) from The Dangs District, Gujarat, India (KUDA 13923–5). Photographs by Dikansh S. Parmar.



Figure 3. The record length road-killed Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*) (1,350 mm) from The Dangs District, Gujarat, India, held by Shailesh Tank, whose height is 170 cm. Photograph by Dikansh S. Parmar.

firm by Dr. S.R. Ganesh. Total length of the road-killed snake was 1,350 mm (Fig. 3), which represents the longest individual recorded to date. Deepak et al. (2019) and Patel et al. (2019) reported maximum total lengths of 1,237 mm and 1,315 mm, respectively. This species has been recorded in the states of Odisha and Rajasthan (Deepak et al. 2019), Maharashtra (Narayanan and Mohapatra 2021), and three localities (Junagadh in the Saurashtra region, and Chhota Udaipur and Vadodara in the central region) in Gujarat (Patel et al. 2019). The new record is 649 km from Junagadh and 269 km and 259 km from Chhota Udaipur and Vadodara, respectively (Fig. 4), indicating that the distribution of *A. laudankia* extends to southern Gujarat and suggests that the species likely is present in additional districts of the state. Photographic vouchers have been deposited in the University of Kansas Digital Archive (KUDA 13923–5).

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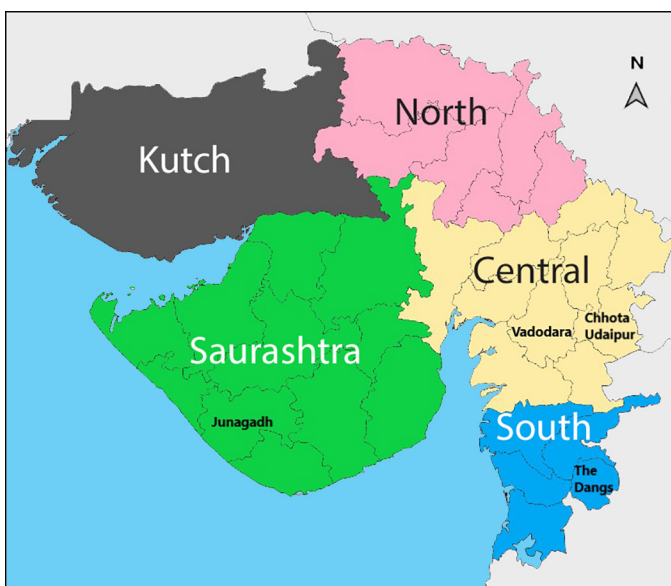


Figure 4. Map of Gujarat, India, showing the regions of the state and the districts in which the Laudankia Vinesnake (*Ahaetulla laudankia*) has been recorded. The record for The Dangs District represents the southernmost record in the state.