



Notes on Prey of the Common Sandboa, *Eryx conicus* (Schneider 1801), in Valsad, Gujarat, India

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The Common Sandboa, *Eryx conicus* (Schneider 1801), is widely distributed in Pakistan, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka (Uetz et al. 2023), where it occupies a diverse array of largely arid habitats, including grasslands, scrublands, and agricultural fields (Daniel 2002; Das 2002; Whitaker and Captain 2004). Despite its prevalence, details regarding its prey and feeding behavior are

limited. We herein document six prey species taken by *E. conicus* in Valsad, Gujarat, India (20.5992, 72.9342), in 2019–2021.

Although *Eryx conicus* feeds primarily on birds and small mammals, other prey, including frogs and lizards, have been documented (Daniel 2002; Das 2002; Whitaker and Captain 2004; Jadhav et al. 2022; Upadhyay et al. 2023).



Figure 1. Prey of Common Sandboas (*Eryx conicus*) in Valsad, Gujarat, India: (A) Bandicoot Rat (*Bandicota indica*); (B) Oriental Garden Lizard (*Calotes versicolor*); (C) Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*); (D) Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striata*); and (E) Indian Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus palmarum*). Photographs by Aadit Patel.

Table 1. Prey records of Common Sandboas (*Eryx conicus*) in Valsad, Gujarat, India.

Species	Location	Date (time)
Reptilia (Squamata)		
Oriental Garden Lizard (<i>Calotes versicolor</i>)	20.6510, 72.9610	18 February 2021 (1514 h)
Aves (Cuculiformes)		
Greater Coucal (<i>Centropus sinensis</i>)	20.6630, 72.9700	3 July 2021 (1508 h)
Aves (Passeriformes)		
Jungle Babbler (<i>Turdoides striata</i>)	20.6580, 72.9600	14 May 2020 (1020 h)
Mammalia (Rodentia)		
Greater Bandicoot Rat (<i>Bandicota indica</i>)	20.6600, 72.9510	22 July 2019 (2158 h)
Indian Palm Squirrel (<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>)	20.6660, 72.9670	6 June 2020 (0946 h)

Observations of feeding behavior generally involved a rapid strike, constriction of its prey, and ingestion (usually headfirst). Complete ingestion took about 15 minutes, longer for larger prey. We recorded five species of prey taken by Common Sandboas (one reptile, two birds, and two mammals) (Table 1; Fig. 1).

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