



First record of the Green Catsnake, *Boiga cyanea* Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril 1854 (Squamata: Colubridae), from Manipur, India

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The Green Catsnake (*Boiga cyanea*) is a nocturnal and arboreal rear-fanged, mildly venomous colubrid that feeds primarily on frogs, lizards, snakes, and small rodents (Whitaker and Captain 2004). The species is listed as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2022 (Thy et al. 2022). The species is widely distributed in southern and southeastern Asia (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, and China) (Uetz et al. 2023). In India, it has been reported from Assam (Purkayastha 2013), Mizoram (Lalremsanga et al. 2011), Nagaland (Ao et al. 2004), Nicobar Islands (Gokulakrishnan et al. 2021); and from Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and West Bengal (Uetz et al. 2023). Publications addressing the herpetofaunal diversity of Manipur (Acharji and Kripalani 1951; Singh 1995; Mathew 2005; Sinate et al. 2021, 2022; Elangbam et al. 2022, 2023; Hakim 2023) have not recorded the presence of *B. cyanea* in the state.

At about 1500 h on 18 April 2023, EP rescued a male *B. cyanea* (Fig.1) from Ningthoukhong, Bishnupur District,

Manipur, India (24.57297 N; 93.765286 E; elev. 777 m asl). The snake was measured, photographed, and released in nearby suitable habitat. A photographic voucher has been deposited in the University of Kansas Herpetology Digital Archive (KUDA 14503) and the identity of the snake was confirmed by Vishal Santra, Society for Nature Conservation and Community Engagement (CONCERN). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first record of this species from Manipur.

Acknowledgements

We thank the CWLW/PCCF, Department of Forests, Government of Manipur, Sanjenthong, Imphal, Manipur, for issuing permit No.3/22/2021-WL to carry out studies on snakes in the state; Mr. Vishal Santra, Society for Nature Conservation and Community Engagement (CONCERN), Hooghly, West Bengal, for confirming the identity of the snake; Mr. Jenishkumar Thingujam for his help while processing and photographing the snake, and Mr. Laishram Dijen for his help during the rescue of the snake.



Figure 1. An adult Green Catsnake (*Boiga cyanea*) from Bishnupur District, Manipur, India. Photographs by N. Hemeshwor.

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