



# Second Locality Record of Kaulback's Lance-headed Pitviper, *Protobothrops kaulbacki* (Smith 1940), in India

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Kaulback's Lance-headed Pitviper (*Protobothrops kaulbacki*) was described by Smith (1940) from Pangnamdim, north of the Triangle, Upper Burma (now Myanmar). Little information is available on the ecology and natural history of the species. Based on its known distribution in subtropical and tropical regions of Myanmar, China, and India, the species is presumed to inhabit dense forests, often in hilly and mountainous areas (Gumprecht et al. 2004). Species in the genus *Protobothrops* generally are associated with rocky and forested terrains, where they are well-camouflaged among

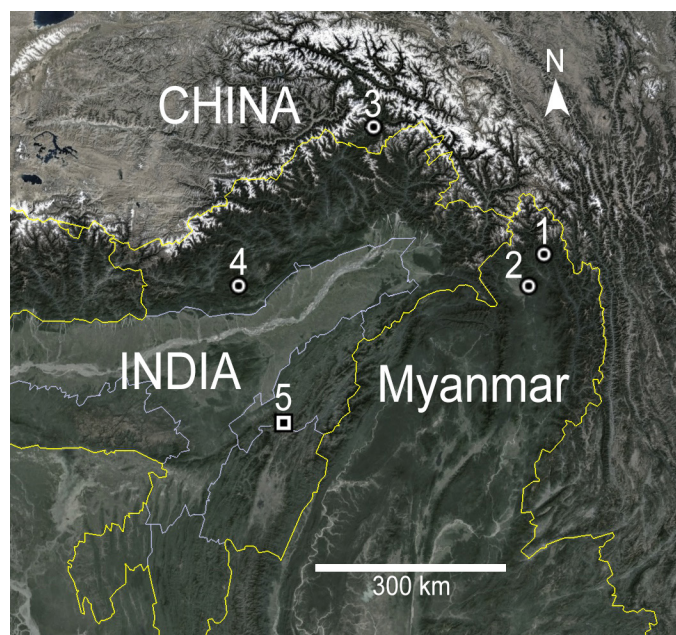
leaf litter and rocks (Gumprecht et al. 2004). These pitvipers usually are active at night, although diurnal activity has been reported, particularly during the monsoon season when prey availability increases (Gumprecht et al. 2004).

Apart from the type locality, *Protobothrops kaulbacki* is known from few sites (Fig. 1), including Nogmung Township, Hkakabo Razi National Park, and Pannandin Village, Putao District, Kachin State, Myanmar, and Medog County, Xizang Autonomous Region (Tibet), China (Gumprecht et al. 2004; Rao and Zhao 2005). In India, the species has been recorded only from the Dafla Hills, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh (Bhide et al. 2008). We herein report a second locality record of *P. kaulbacki* in Nagaland, India.

At about 0930 h on 25 August 2023, we encountered a road-killed subadult (total length 560 mm) (Fig. 2) at Kigwema Village in Jakhama Circle, Kohima District, Nagaland, India (25.60593, 94.12644; elev. 1,607 m asl), about 200 km south of the nearest locality at Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh, India (Fig. 1). The snake was alongside a road toward Mount Japfu surrounded on both sides by tropical semi-evergreen forest. A photographic voucher has been deposited at the Zoological Reference Collection, in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, at the National University of Singapore. (ZRC(IMG) 2.706a,b,c.). The identity of the species was confirmed by H.T. Lalremsanga.

## Literature Cited

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**Figure 1.** Google Earth® image showing the known locality records for Kaulback's Lance-headed Pitviper (*Protobothrops kaulbacki*): 1. Pangnamdim, north of the Triangle, Upper Burma (now Myanmar) (type locality); 2. Nogmung Township, Hkakabo Razi National Park, Myanmar; 3. Xizang Autonomous Region (Tibet), China; 4. Dafla Hills, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh, India; 5. Kigwema Village, Jakhama Circle, Kohima District, Nagaland, India (new record).



**Figure 2.** A road-killed subadult Kaulback's Lance-headed Pitviper (*Protobothrops kaulbacki*) from Kigwema Village, Kohima, Nagaland, India. Photographs by Debabrata Phukon.