



# Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*) Preying on an Oriental Ratsnake (*Ptyas mucosa*) at Raipur (Makhaniya Hill), Pavijetpur Range, Gujarat, India

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Indian Rock Pythons (*Python molurus*), which are widely distributed in India, Sri Lanka, and parts of Pakistan (Smith 1943; Whitaker 1993; Daniel 2002; Whitaker and Captain 2004), are listed as near-threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Aengals et al. 2021).

At 1712 h on 6 May 2023, the first author heard something in dry leaves on the ground at Raipur (Makhaniya Hill), Pavijetpur Range, Gujarat, India (22.45522, 73.84198). A careful search revealed an Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*) (total length ~2–2.5 m) feeding on an Oriental Ratsnake (*Ptyas mucosa*) (Fig. 1) (total length ~1.5–2.5 m). Complete ingestion took about 6–7 min.

Twenty-three vertebrate taxa (79% mammals, 17% birds, 4% reptiles) were recorded in the diet of *P. molurus* at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan (Bhupathy et al. 2014), and Vadher et al. (2023) reported an Indian Rock Python preying on a Mottled Wood Owl (*Strix ocellata*) at Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat, India. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of an Indian Rock Python feeding on an Indian Ratsnake.

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**Figure 1.** An Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*) feeding on an Oriental Ratsnake (*Ptyas mucosa*). Photograph by Vivek Patel.

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