



First Record of Salazar's Pitviper (*Trimeresurus salazar*) from Nagaland, India

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The genus *Trimeresurus* Lacépède 1804 comprises nine species that occur in northeastern India (Mirza et al. 2020). Salazar's Pitviper (*Trimeresurus salazar*) has been recorded from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura (Rathee et al. 2021; Chowdhury et al. 2024). At 1500 h on 20 September 2021, we encountered a *T. salazar* (Fig. 1) in the Rangapahar Reserve Forest, near Dimapur, Nagaland, India (25.858030, 93.707726; elev. 250 m asl), basking on a Teak (*Tectona grandis*).

The snake (ca. 90 cm in total length), identified by its characteristic yellowish-green dorsal color with orange stripes extending from behind the eyes to the nape, closely matched the diagnostic features in the original description by Mirza et al. (2020). A photographic voucher has been deposited in the *Reptiles & Amphibians* Specify Digital Repository (RAJ 00011). The identity of the species was confirmed by independent herpetologist Manmath Bharali.

This first record from Nagaland extends the known range of *T. salazar* about 180 km east of the nearest previously known locality in Umroi Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya. The presence

of *T. salazar* in Nagaland adds to the known herpetofaunal diversity in the state and underscores the importance of continued exploration and conservation efforts in this region.

Acknowledgements

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Literature Cited

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Figure 1. A Salazar's Pitviper (*Trimeresurus salazar*) from Rangapahar Reserve Forest in Dimapur, Nagaland, India (RAJ 00011). Photograph by Lalit Budhani.