

Record of Beaked Worm Snake (*Gryptotyphlopsacutus*) at Ariyalur District, Tamilnadu State, India

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Received: 28.4.2022

Accepted: 21.5.2022

Abstract: The Scolecophidia indicate an early divergence in the snake lineages that exist today. Due to their burrowing behavior, small size, and absence of risk to humans, they are of little human interest as a group. The beaked worm snake, sometimes known as a beaked blind snake, is the largest blind snake in south Asia. *Gryptotyphlopsacutus*, also known as the beaked worm snake, is a harmless blind snake species endemic to peninsular India. Report of beaked worm-snake *Gryptotyphlopsacutus* from vetriyur village, ariyalur district, tamilnadu state India. In this report discussed about the species and their distributions.

Keywords: Snake, reptile, new locality

1. Introduction

Snakes are found throughout the planet, with the exception of the Arctic, New Zealand, and Ireland. There are an estimated 3000 species of terrestrial snakes in the globe, with the majority living in warm climates and lush green regions of the tropics. In India, there are approximately 278 species, with 58 of them being venomous (Sonali R. Rautet, al.2014). The Beaked Worm-snake is a snake with a beaked head. *Gryptotyphlopsacutus*, a non venomous snake, is a member of the Typhlopidae family. It is indigenous to India and can be found practically everywhere south of the Indo - Gangetic plain on the Indian peninsula. G. *Acutusis* describes its colour as "glossy brown on top and noticeably lighter below" (Whitaker and Captain 2004). The advent of man appears to have increased the hunting abilities as tea plantations, paddy fields, village huts and city warehouses provided new opportunities for worms and insects, frogs, birds, rats, mice, etc. many of which increased in the areas due to these habitat & safe houses and subsequently are an easy prey for snakes (Whitaker Romulus 1978 & Wall A. J. 1883). The snakes found in India are diverse, with lengths ranging from 6mm to 10m and weights ranging from a few grams to several kilo grams (Harney Narendra V, 2001).

We discovered that villagers who claimed to have seen these snakes earlier referred to them as "Munnalli Pambu," which means "something which dwells in the dirt." Because these snakes spend the majority of their lives below the earth and only come out on rare occasions, little research and reporting has been done on them. The discovery of this species in the area, as well as residents' preconceptions about these nonpoisonous snakes and a lack of comprehensive research on these

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snakes have prompted us to try to provide the current state of knowledge about these snakes (Vijay Kautilya et., al, 2014).

Study area: The beaked worm-snake *Gryptotyphlopsacutus* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1844) from vetriyur village (10°58'57.2"N 79°05'49.8"E), ariyalur district, tamilnadu state, india. It is located 19 KM towards South from District head quarters Ariyalur. Near to 5 km reached famous longest river in Thirumanur. In this species identified based on the photographs and captured on 14/06/2021 at 8.00 PM.

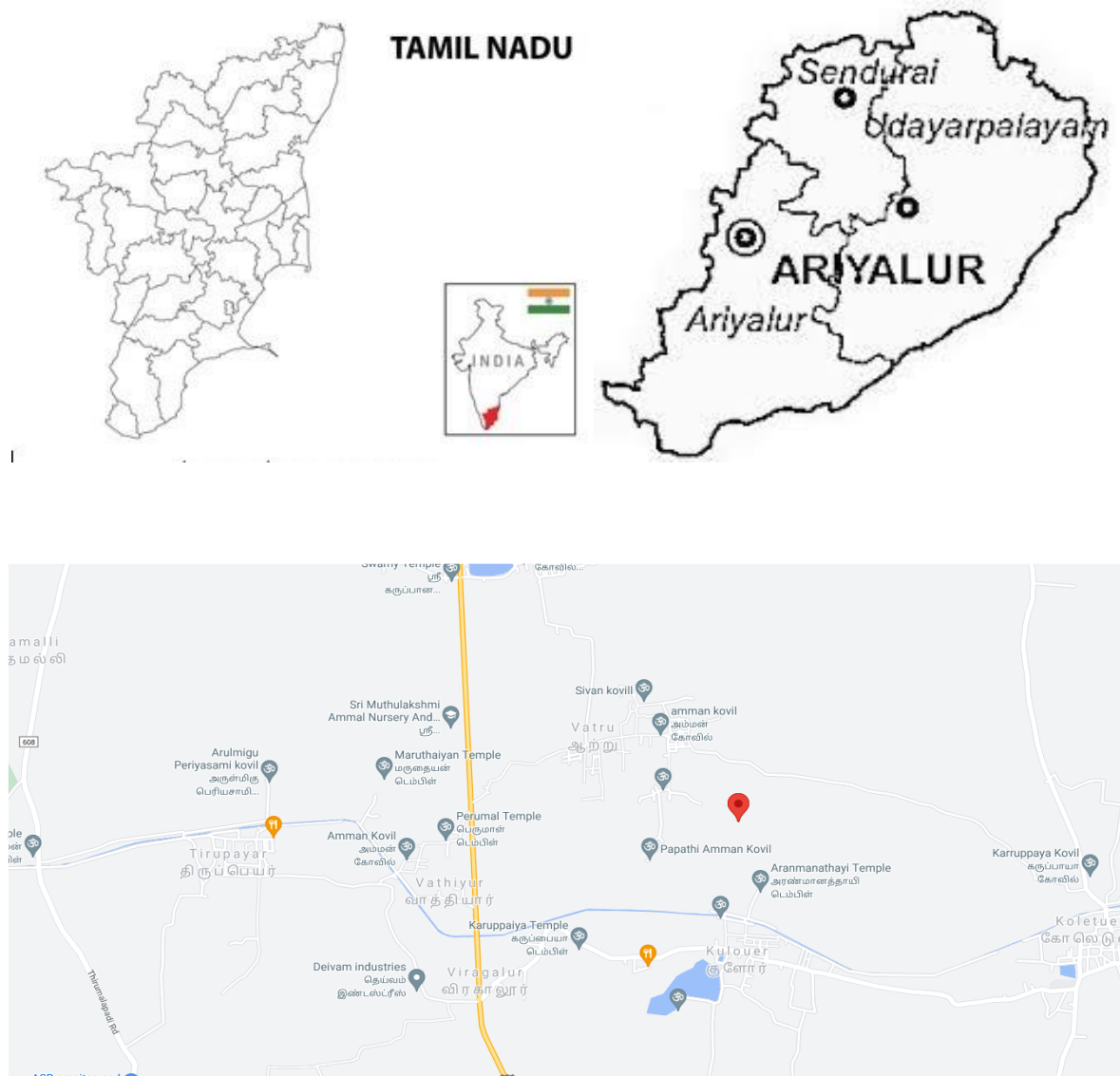


Figure 1. A map showing study area at vetriyur village, ariyalur district, tamilnadu state, india

2. Global Distribution:

India (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal).

Table 1. Scientific classification

Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata

Class	Reptilia
Order	Squamata
Suborder	Serpentes
Family	Typhlopidae
Genus	<i>Grypotyphlops</i>
Species	<i>Grypotyphlopsacutus</i> (Dumeril&Bibron, 1844)

Habit and habitat:

Primarily nocturnal and exceptionally nimble. The majority of this animal's life is spent underground. Also devoured are worms, soft-bodied larvae, and the eggs of ants and termites.

Diagnostic characters:

The scales are smooth, the head and body are the same width, and the snout is pointed and large. Hooked beak on a scale. Nostrils located beneath the 'beak.' A spine marks the end of the short tail. The top is a glossy brown, while the bottom is noticeably paler.

Descriptions:

The indigenous Beaked Worm Snake, *Grypotyphlopsacutus* (Bibron & Duméril&Bibron, 1844), is a member of the Typhlopidae family. On the IUCN Red List, this species is classified as Least Concern (Srinivasuluet, al, 2013). D'Abreu collected three specimens in Nagpur in 1928. Consequently, it was recognized that the species' range extended from the Ganges Basin to Rajputana (Rajasthan), west of Baroda, and east of Kolkata. Smith, 1943. Later observations of this species were made in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha (Murthy 1995). Records of this snake from the state of Gujarat (Daniel & Shull 1963; Sharma 1982; Gayen 1999) and reported length records of this species are supported by literature (Vyaset.al, 2001). Amaravati, Melghat, Maharashtra was also recorded by Nandeet al. (2007). An albino *G. acutus* was discovered for the first time in Dapoli, Maharashtra (Nivalkaret.al. 2012). Aside from that, there are few studies on taxon ecology. Pyron and Wallach (2014) recently studied systematic of blind snakes using morphology and molecular evidence. Recently documented, (RajuVyaset.al.,2001) Following our visit to Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Dangs District (20°51' - 21' N latitude and 73°32' - 73° 48' E longitude) on November 12, 1999, we walked from Duldha to Bandhpada Village at 07:00. On the way, we observed a long-dead snake (road kill) near a forest management plot. It was determined to be the Beaked Worm Snake *Rhinotyphlopsacutus* (Bibron & Duméril, 1803) after careful examination. A rare albino Beaked Worm-snake was discovered in Maharashtra, India, according to anilnivalkaret.al. (2012). The first author spotted the snake at 11:30 hrs on 18 September 2011 outside his home in the Sutarwadi hamlet of Gimhavane village near Dapoli. Rice fields, trees on bunds, and sparse habitation surround the house. The snake was delivered to the Dapoli College of Forestry. It was observed, photographed, and then returned to its original location. On March 16, 2017, at 12:30 h, during a carnivore-sign survey performed by the World Wildlife Fund, India, we discovered an adult Beaked Wormsnake (Fig. 1) beneath a boulder in the Kallampalayam Beat of the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (11°34'N, 76°06'E)

(PandiKarthiket.al,2018).This species was discovered for the first time in vetriyur village, ariyalur district, tamilnadu state, India. It was entirely white. The enlarged shield like rostral scale confirmed the specimen's identity as *G. acutus* (Figure. 2). There was no scalation data recorded. The specimen measured 44 cm in total length. Its scales were white, with a pinkish tinge toward the head. Eyespots were not visible.



Figure 2. *Grypotyphlops acutus* ,Duméril&Bibron ,1844.



Figure 3. Longest of beaked worm snake (*Grypotyphlopsacutus*) from vetriyur village, Ariyalur district , Tamilnadu.

3. Conclusion

The beaked worm snake is a non-poisonous, harmless blind snake that can be found all over central and southern India. However, because it spends the majority of its life in the soil, sightings of this snake are uncommon. There have been very few reports about this snake published, and the majority of them are from rural areas. The snake is startling and confirms our limited knowledge of the species, but it may also help us grasp the speed with which humans are invading the wilderness. In this location, there is a lot of biodiversity.

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