

Distribution of *Calliophis melanueus*, *Boiga trigonata*, *Coluber grascilis* and *Coronella brachyera* in Western region of Khed Tahsil, MS, India

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Abstract

Reptiles are termed as cold blooded, meaning that their body temperature varies with the outside temperature reptiles have low metabolic rate and there for produce less heat than a mammals or birds of comparable size. They have poor body insulation and cooling mechanism as they lack sweat glands yet they have considerable capacity for regulating their body temperature. The Western region is commercial crop growing area of Khed Tahsil. The present study observed in which 04 species belonging to 01 order, 02 families of 04 genera were recorded during June 2010 to May 2011. The *Calliophis melanueus*, *Boiga trigonata*, *Coluber grascilis* and *Coronella brachyura* species are rare in Khed Tahasil which is part of Northern western Ghats, Pune (MS).

Keywords: Distribution, Reptiles, cold blooded, Khed Tahsil, Northern western Ghats

Introduction

Reptiles are termed as cold blooded, meaning that their body temperature varies with the outside temperature reptiles have low metabolic rate and there for produce less heat than a mammals or birds of comparable size. They have poor body insulation and cooling mechanism as they lack sweat glands yet they have considerable capacity for regulating their body temperature. Reptiles are the true friends of farmer. The Western region is commercial crop growing area of Khed Tahsil. The western region of Khed Tahsil is hilly area with forest and semi forest land, also in this region the presence of crops like paddy, barley, groundnut concern with soil strata brownish soil is observed, in such area. About 28 species of snake observe in Khed Tahsil¹. The snakes *Calliophis melanueus*, *Boiga trigonata*, *Coluber grascilis* and *Coronella brachyera* found and characterized. Indian wild protection act 1972 these are the rare snake in south Asia. The species found

in western regions unique in food habitat as it found in other areas. Smooth snake, Slender coral snake, Cylon cat snake and Slender racer snake these species was considered as rare owing to its small distribution range these species was even believed extinct.

Material and Methods

The attempt has been made to observe *Calliophis melanueus*, *Boiga trigonata*, *Coluber grascilis* and *Coronella brachyera* in western region of Khed Tahsil with the help of forest department of Maharashtra and nongovernmental organization Vasundhara Bahuuddeshiay Sanstha, Chakan, Maharashtra, specially those involved in snake conservation and rescue⁶. The identification of these snakes with the help of key^{7,8}. We have recorded this rare species in the said area of Khed Tahsil. It indicates rich reptile fauna with great biodiversity in western region of Khed Tahsil.



Figure-1
Coluber grascilis



Figure-2
Coronella brachyera



Figure-3
Boiga trigonata



Figure-4
Calliophis melanueus

Results and Discussion

While examining these species Details on the records are as follows; A live specimen Coral snake, total length 17cm, near Zitrai mala, Chakan, May 2010 in garden area. A live specimen slender racer snake length 30 cm, Karanjvihire, Chakan, July 2011 in colony area. A live specimen Cylon cat snake, total length 50 cm, Vidyadham colony, Chakan, Sept.2011 in garden area. A live specimen Smooth snake, total length 14cm, near Waki tarfe Wada, Chakan, March 2011 in agriculture farm. Attempt has been made to observed the species found in this region during

Table -1

Months	Species (Common name)
June to august	Slender racer snake
September to December	Cylon cat snake
March to May	Coral snake, smooth snake

Conclusion

The present inventory study indicates the diversity of snakes in Western region of Khed Tahasil, Pune. These rare species found in this region shows endemic in nature. It is urgent need to conserve this rare species of snake found in Khed Tahasil, Pune.

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