

## LIZARDS AND SNAKES OF FOUR CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE IDUKKI DISTRICT, KERALA STATE

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### INTRODUCTION

The Idukki district which was a part of the erstwhile State of Travancore, is also a significant segment of the Western Ghats known for its faunal wealth and the famous Periyar Tiger Reserve is located in the district. Besides the Periyar Tiger Reserve, the district has four more conservation areas namely, the Idukki Wildlife sanctuary, the Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary, the Eravikulam National Park and the Thattekkad Bird sanctuary. The present report is based on the study of a collection of reptiles obtained from the conservation areas of Periyar Tiger Reserve, Idukki and Chinnar Wildlife sanctuaries and the Eravikulam National park (fig.1) which are deposited in the faunal holdings of the Western Ghats Field Research station of the Zoological Survey of India at Calicut. The collection studied contain 32 species of reptiles falling under 19 genera and 8 families (Table-I). Smith (1935, 1943) has already focussed our attention on the reptiles occurring in the Western Ghats. Some of the recent works which deal with the reptilian fauna of the Western Ghats are those of Daniel (1983), Murthy (1985, 1986) and Tikader and Sharma (1992). There has been no consolidated systematic account dealing with the reptiles of the Idukki district so far barring brief notes by Chandrasekhar (1987).

### SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Class : REPTILIA

Order : SQUAMATA

LIZARDS

Suborder : SAURIA

Family : GEKKONIDAE

1. *Hemidactylus maculatus* Dumeril & Bibron

1836. *Hemidactylus maculatus* (in part) Dum. & Bibr. *Erp. Gen.* iii, p. 358.

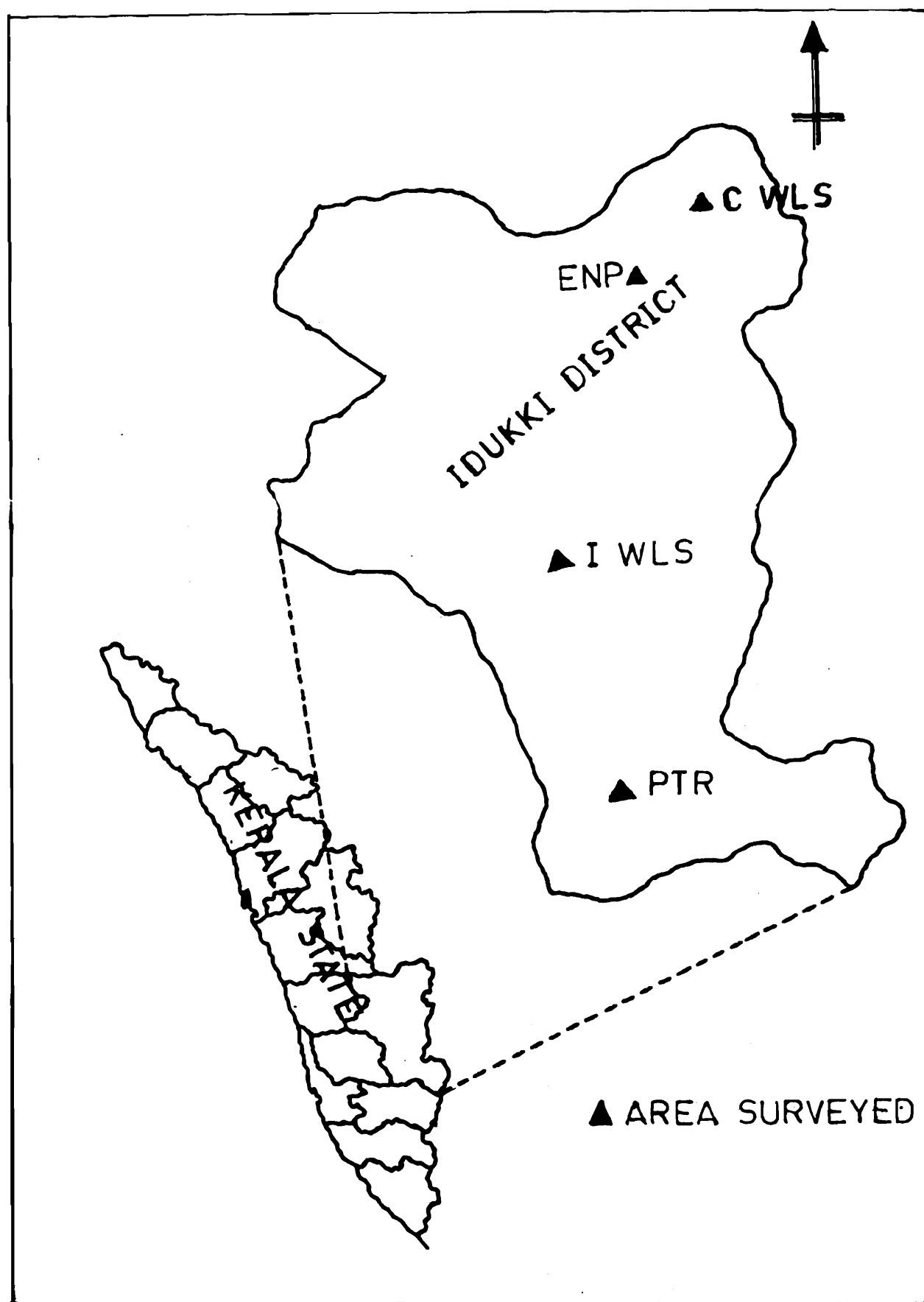


Fig. 1. Map of Idukki district showing the area surveyed. C WLS : Chinnar Wild Life sanctuary. ENP : Eravikulam National Park. I WLS : Idukki Wild life sanctuary. PTR : Periyar tiger reserve.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Chinnar (Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary), 19-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala.

### 2. *Dravidogecko anamallensis* (Gunther)

1875. *Gecko anamallensis* Gunther. *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, p. 226.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Rajamalai (Eravikulam National Park), 2-iv-1994 & 17-iv-1997, K. C. Gopi & E. Kunhikrishnan.

*Distribution* : India : Anamalai, Palni & Tirunelveli Hills (Tamil Nadu).

### 3. *Cnemaspis ornata* (Beddome.)

1870. *Gymnodactylus ornatus* Beddome *Madras Month. J. Med. Sci.*, i, p. 32.

*Material examined* : 3 exs., Churulipetty & Chambakkad (Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary), 17-xi-1996 & 18-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Tirunelveli & Anamalais (Tamil Nadu) and hills of South Kerala.

### 4. *Cnemaspis littoralis* (Jerdon)

1853. *Gymnodactylus littoralis* Jerdon. *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xxii, p. 469.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Thannikudi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 17-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Nilambur (Kerala), Nellakota, Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu).

### 5. *Cnemaspis indica* (Gray)

1846. *Goniodactylus indicus* Gray. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* xviii, p. 429.

*Material examined* : 3 exs., Vellimala, Manakkavala & Thannikudi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 28-vii-1995, 12-xi-1996 & 3-iii-1997, V. J. Zacharias & P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu), Coorg (Karnataka), Malabar coast of Kerala.

### 6. *Cnemaspis kandiana* (Kelaart)

1852. *Gymnodactylus kandianus* Kelaart. *Prod. Fauna Zeyl.* p. 186.

*Material examined* : 3 exs., Karikkavu, Mlappara & Thannikudi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 10-xi-1996, 18-ix-1996 & 3-iii-1997, P. M. Sureshan & V. J. Zacharias.

*Distribution* : India : Hills of southern India & Andaman Islands., Sri Lanka., Islands west of Sumatra.

7. *Cnemaspis jerdoni* (Theobald)

1868. *Gymnodactylus jerdoni* Theobald. *Cat. Rept. Asiatic. Soc. Mus.*, p. 31.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Karikkavu (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 10-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Nilgiri, Anamalai, Palni & Sivagiri hills (Tamil Nadu), Sri Lanka.

Family : AGAMIDAE

8. *Psammophilus dorsalis* (Gray)

1831. *Agama dorsalis* Gray. in Griffiths. *Anim. King.* ix, p. 56

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Churulipetty & Chambakkad (Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary), 17-xi-1996 & 18-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala.

9. *Salea anamallayana* (Beddome)

1878. *Lophosalea anamallayana* Beddome. *Proc. Zool. Soc.* p. 153, pl. xiv.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Turner's valley (Eravikulam National Park), 5-iii-1995, C. Radhakrishnan.

*Distribution* : India : Anamalais, Palnis (Tamil Nadu), hills of South Kerala.

10. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin)

1802. *Agama Versicolor* Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept.* iii, p. 395, pl. XLIV.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Thannikudi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 11-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan; 1 ex., Vellayikkamali (Idukki Wildlife sanctuary), 14-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan; 1 ex., Chambakkad (Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary), 17-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Whole of India., Sumatra to South China., Sri Lanka., Pakistan., Afghanistan.

11. *Calotes elliotti* Gunther

1864. *Calotes elliotti* Gunther. *Rept. Brit. Ind.* p. 142.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Mlappara (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 18-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Anamalai, Palni, Sivagiri & Tirunelveli hills (Tamil Nadu), New Amarambalam R. F & Silent Valley, Kerala.

12. *Calotes rouxi* Dumeril & Bibron

1837. *Calotes rouxii* Dum. & Bibr. *Erp. Gren.* iv. p. 407.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Thannikudi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 3-iii-1997, V. J. Zacharias.

*Distribution* : India : Western coastal districts from Gujarat to Kerala.

13. *Calotes calotes* (Linnaeus)

1758. *Lacerta calotes* Linnaeus. *Syst. Nat.* 10th ed., p. 207.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Vellayikkamali (Idukki Wildlife sanctuary), 14-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Shevroy hills (Tamil Nadu), South Kerala, Nicobar Island., Sri Lanka.

Family : SCINCIDAE

14. *Ristella guentheri* Boulenger

1887. *Ristella guentheri* Boulenger. *Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.* iii, p. 358, pl. xxix, fig. 3.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Mlappara (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 9-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : South Kerala.

15. *Ristella beddomii* Boulenger

1887. *Ristella beddomii* Boulenger. *Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.* iii, p. 359 pl. xxix, fig. 4.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Meenmooty (Idukki Wildlife sanctuary), 15-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : North Kanara district (Karnataka), Tenmalai, Parambikulam, New Amarambalam R. F. (Kerala).

16. *Mabuya macularia* (Blyth)

1853. *Eupreps macularius* Blyth. *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal.*, xxii, p. 652.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Tannikudi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 7-xi-1996 & 3-iii-1997, P. M. Sureshan & V. J. Zacharias.

*Distribution* : India : Whole of India., Myanmar., Pakistan., Thailand., Vietnam., Malaysia.

17. *Mabuya bibroni* (Gray)

1838. *Tiliqua bibronii* Gray. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* ii, p. 290.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Churulipetty (Chinnar wildlife Sanctuary), 17-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa., Sri Lanka.

18. *Riopa punctata* (Gmelin)

1799. *Scincus punctatus* Gmelin. *Hist. Amph.* p. 197.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Churulipetty & Chambakkad (Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary), 17-xi-1996 & 18-xi-1996 P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Almost whole of India., Sri Lanka., Man-son mountains, Tonking.

## SNAKES

Suborder : SERPENTES

Family : TYPHLOPIDAE

19. *Typhlops beddomei* Boulenger

1890. *Typhlops beddomei* Boulenger. *Fauna of British India*, p. 237.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Manakkavala (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 12-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Hills of South India.

Family : UROPELTIDAE

20. *Uropeltis ceylanicus* Cuvier

1829. *Uropeltis ceylanicus* Cuvier. *Reg. Anim.* 2nd ed. ii, p. 76.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Vellimala., Thekkadi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 28-vii-1995, V. J. Zacharias.

*Distribution* : India : Goa to south Kerala and Shevroy hills of Tamil Nadu.

21. *Uropeltis ocellatus* (Beddome)

1863. *Silybura ocellata* Beddome. *Proc. Zool. Soc.* p. 225.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Thekkadi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 28-vii-1995 & 1-v-1996, V. J. Zacharias.

*Distribution* : India : Western Ghats, South of Goa gap.

Family : COLUBRIDAE

22. *Ahaetulla dispar* (Gunther)

1864. *Tragops dispar* Gunther. *Rept. Brit. Ind.* p. 303, pl. 23, fig. A.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Bhimanada (Eravikulam National Park), 12-iv-1994, K. C. Gopi.

*Distribution* : India : South Western Ghats.

23. *Amphiesma beddomei* (Gunther)

1864. *Tropidonotus beddomei* Gunther. *Rept. Brit. Ind.* p. 269, pl. xxii, fig. E.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Thekkadi & Mlappara (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 1-v-1996 & 9-xi-1996, V. J. Zacharias & P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Throughout the southern Western Ghats upto Pune.

24. *Amphiesma monticola* (Jerdon)

1853. *Tropidonotus monticolus* Jerdon. *Jl. Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, xxii, p. 530.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Vellayikkamali (Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary), 14-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Western Ghats South of Goa.

25. *Amphiesme stolata* (Linnaeus)

1758. *Coluber Stolatus* Linnaeus. *Syst. Nat.* 10th ed., p. 219.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Bhimanada & Kulukkumalai (Eravikulam National Park), 12-iv-1994 & 4-iii-1995, K. C. Gopi & P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Whole of India including Andamans., Pakistan., Southern China., Indo-China., Sri Lanka.

26. *Chrysopelea ornata* (Shaw)

1802. *Coluber ornatus* Shaw. *Gen. Zool.* iii, p. 477.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Thekkadi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 1-v-1996, V. J. Zacharias.

*Distribution* : India : Tripura, Assam, Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Western Ghats south of Goa., Sri Lanka., Whole of Indo-Chinese region extending to upper Myanmar, Southern China.

27. *Macropisthodon plumbicolor* (Cantor)

1839. *Tropidonotus plumbicolor* Cantor. *Proc. Zool. Soc.* p. 54.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Rajamalai (Eravikulam National Park) 16-viii-1996, E. Kunhikrishnan.

*Distribution* : India : Throughout India except Ganges valley and extreme north-west., Sri Lanka.

28. *Xylophis perroteti* (Dumeril & Bibron)

1854. *Platypteryx perroteti* Dum. & Bibr. *Erp. Gren.* vii, p. 501.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Near Anamudi (Eravikulam National Park), 10-viii-1996, E. Kunhikrishnan.

*Distribution* : India : from Wynad (Kerala) to Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu).

Family : ELAPIDAE

29. *Calliophis nigrescens* (Gunther)

1862. *Callophis nigrescens* Gunther. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (3) ix. p. 131.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Manakkavala (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 12-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Southern Western Ghats.

Family : VIPERIDAE

30. *Hypnale hypnale* (Merrem)

1820. *Cophias hypnale* Merrem. *Syst. Amph.* p. 155.

*Material examined* : 2 exs., Vellayikkamali (Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary), 14-xi-1996, P. M. Sureshan.

*Distribution* : India : Western Ghats as far north as latitude 16°, Sri Lanka.



31. *Trimeresurus gramineus* (Shaw)1802. *Coluber gramineus* Shaw. *Gen. Zool.* iii. p.420.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Vellimala, Thekkadi (Periyar Tiger Reserve), 28-vii-1995, V J. Zacharias.

*Distribution* : India : Peninsular India South of Lat. 22°

32. *Trimeresurus macrolepis* Beddome1862. *Trimeresurus macrolepis* Beddome. *Madras Quart. J. Med. Sci.* v. p. 2, fig. 6.

*Material examined* : 1 ex., Umayamalai (Eravikulam National Park), 16-viii-1996, E. Kuhnkrishnan.

*Distribution* : India : South Western Ghats.

**Table-1** : Species of Reptiles and their area of occurrence in the Idukki District.

Sl. No.	Scientific name	Area of Occurrence
<i>Family : Gekkonidae</i>		
1.	<i>Hemidactylus maculatus</i>	C WLS
2.	<i>Dravidogecko anamallensis</i>	ENP
3.	<i>Cnemaspis ornata</i>	C WLS
4.	<i>Cnemaspis littoralis</i>	PTR
5.	<i>Cnemaspis indica</i>	PTR
6.	<i>Cnemaspis kandiana</i>	PTR
7.	<i>Chemaspis jerdoni</i>	PTR
<i>Family : Agamidae</i>		
8.	<i>Psammophilus dorsalis</i>	C WLS
9.	<i>Salea anamallayana</i>	ENP
10.	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	PTR, I WLS, C WLS
11.	<i>Calotes elliotti</i>	PTR
12.	<i>Calotes rouxi</i>	PTR

Sl. No.	Scientific name	Area of Occurrence
13.	<i>Calotes calotes</i> <i>Family : Scincidae</i>	I WLS
14.	<i>Ristella guentheri</i>	PTR
15.	<i>Ristella beddomii</i>	I WLS
16.	<i>Mabuya macularia</i>	PTR
17.	<i>Mabuya bibroni</i>	C WLS
18.	<i>Riopa punctata</i> <i>Family : Typhlopidae</i>	C WLS
19.	<i>Typhlops beddomei</i> <i>Family : Uropeltidae</i>	PTR
20.	<i>Uropeltis ceylanicus</i>	PTR
21.	<i>Uropeltis ocellatus</i> <i>Family : Colubridae</i>	PTR
22.	<i>Ahaetulla dispar</i>	ENP
23.	<i>Amphiesma beddomei</i>	PTR
24.	<i>Amphiesma monticola</i>	I WLS
25.	<i>Amphiesma stolata</i>	ENP
26.	<i>Chrysopelea ornata</i>	PTR
27.	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i>	ENP
28.	<i>Xylophis perroteti</i> <i>Family : Elapidae</i>	ENP
29.	<i>Calliophis nigrescens</i> <i>Family : Viperidae</i>	PTR
30.	<i>Hypnale hypnale</i>	I WLS
31.	<i>Trimeresurus gramineus</i>	PTR
32.	<i>Trimeresurus macrolepis</i>	ENP

PTR—Periyar Tiger Reserve; ENP—Eravikulam National Park; I WLS—Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary; C WLS—Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary

## SUMMARY

Thirty two species of reptiles occurring in the four conservation areas of the Idukki district, Kerala State are discussed:

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