OPHIO-FAUNA OF UJJAIN & CERTAIN AREAS OF MALWA REGION (MADHYA PRADESH)

MUKESH INGLE

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INTRODUCTION

The Ujjain district which was considered as the ‘cultural capital’ of India in the past, is also carries a significance in Madhya Pradesh for its floral & faunal wealth and the famous ‘Mahakal Temple’ is located here. The Malwa forms a distinct unit of M.P. (27°70’–25°10’N & 73°45’–79°14’ E) with an area of 1,50,000 square kilometre and include the Ujjain district. The climate in general is tropical monsoon-type. This region has got a typical flora; suitable for a plateau and comprises mixed deciduous forest along with grass land and xyrophytes. The soil of Malwa is black loam.

The present paper is mostly based on the study of snakes collected from Ujjain city and its surroundings of Malwa. The present studies are based on 33 species of snakes belong to 6 families. Smith (1943), Gharpurey (1962), Deoras (1965), Whitaker (1978), Daiel (1983) and Murthy (1986) has already focussed our attention on the snakes occurring in Madhya Pradesh. Some of the recent works which deals with the Ophio-fauna of Malwa Region are those of Ingle (1996), Vyas (1998) and Ingle (2001). In the present work, four species have been added and the complete list of snakes known from the Malwa is presented.

SYSTEMETIC ACCOUNT

Order SQUAMATA
Suborder SERPENTES
Family TYPHLOPIDAE

1. Typhlops braminus (Daudin)

1943. Typhlops braminus Smith, Fauna Brit. Ind. iii : 46.

Distribution: Madhya Pradesh: As mentioned in the material.

Elsewhere: Throughout the orientel region, Africa, Mexico and New Guinea.

2. Typhlops diardi diardi (Smith)


Distribution: Madhya Pradesh: As mentioned in the material, common in West Bengal, Assam, U.P. to Vietnam.

3. Typhlops acutus (Dum. & Bib.)


Distribution: Peninsular India, south of Gangetic Plain and south of Rajasthan, west to Gujarat and east to Calcutta (West Bengal).

Family UROPELTIDAE

4. Uropeltis ocellatus (Beddome)

1943. Uropeltis ocellatus Smith, Fauna Brit. Ind., iii : 76.


Distribution: Madhya Pradesh: As mentioned in the material.

Elsewhere: Western Ghats, Peninsular India.
Family BOIDAE

5. *Python molurus* (Linnaeus)


*Distribution*: Madhya Pradesh.

*Elsewhere*: Peninsular India to the extreme limit of Sind and Punjab in the north-west and to Bengal in the north-east, also Sri Lanka.

*Status*: Rare, protected under scheduled I (part-2) of Indian Wild Life Act., 1972 (1992).

6. *Eryx conicus* (Schneider)


*Distribution*: India: from the base of Himalayas to the extreme south of India, in the west to Bihar and Bengal in the east.

*Elsewhere*: North Sri Lanka, in Pakistan from Sind & Baluchistan.

*Status*: Common.

7. *Eryx johni johni* (Russell)


*Distribution*: Madhya Pradesh: As mentioned in the material; in the plains of Indian subcontinent.

*Elsewhere*: Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan & Iran.

*Status*: It was common in Ujjain & its surrounding areas in the past but not recorded for last few years. Now became rare in the region.
Family COLUBRIDAE

8. *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus)


*Distribution*: Madhya Pradesh: As mentioned in the material.


*Remarks*: The species is very common in urban areas of Ujjain city.

9. *Lycodon striatus* (Shaw)


*Distribution*: India as far east as Chota Nagpur, Peninsular India, Gujarat, Western ghats, Central India.

*Elsewhere*: Sri Lanka, West ward to Iran, Pakistan, Baluchistan, Sind, N. W. F. Provinces.

10. *Oligodon arnensis* (Shaw)


*Distribution*: Madhya Pradesh: As mentioned in the material. Gujarat, Peninsular India, Western Himalayas, Bengal.


11. *Oligodon taeniolatus* (Jerdon)


Distribution: India: Gujarat, Peninsular India and Bihar.

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Pakistan.

Remarks: Recorded for the first time from the region.

12. *Sibnyophis subpunctatus* (Dum. & Bib.)


*Material examined*: 1 ex. collected from Dhar district of M.P., 1994, M. Vyas.

*Distribution*: India: Peninsular India, Gujarat, West Bengal.

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka.

13. *Amphiesma stolata* (Linnaeus)


*Distribution*: Whole of India including Andamans.

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Pakistan.

*Status*: Very common in Ujjain city areas.

14. *Macropisthodon plumibicolor* (Cantor)


*Distribution*: Throughout India except the Ganges valley and the extreme north-west.

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka.

15. *Xenochrophis piscator* (Schneider)


*Distribution*: Whole of India.
Elsewhere: Complete Malyan region, S. China, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Bornea, Burma, Sri Lanka, Pakistan & Indochina.

Status: Very common in Ujjain.

16. *Atretium schistosum* (Daudin)


*Distribution:* Throughout India (Anaimalais, Wyanad, Mysore, U. P., Orissa) except the Himalayas.

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka.

17. *Elaphe helena* (Daudin)


*Distribution:* Throughout India: Gujarat : Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Vadodra, and Dang districts.

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, West Pakistan.

18. *Ptyas mucosus* (Linnaeus)


*Distribution:* Throughout India, Gujarat : Rajkot, Jamnagar, Vadodra, Gandhinagar, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, Panchmahals, Sabarkantha, Whole of India, Andaman islands.

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Burma.

19. *Argyrogena fasciolatus* (Shaw)

1802. *Coluber fasciolatus* Shaw (based on Russell, 1760 : 26, pl. 21).


INGLE : Ophio-fauna of Ujjain & certain areas of Malwa region (Madhya Pradesh)


Distribution : Peninsular India, Pakistan North to Himalayas and in the east to West Bengal.

20. *Argyrogena gracillis* (Guenther)


Distribution : Has been found in Bombay, Poona, Satara, Central Provinces & Sindh.

Remarks : The species is recorded for the first time from the region.

21. *Dendrelaphis tristis* (Daudin)


Distribution : India : Gujarat : Rajkot, Junagarh, Vadodra and Bhavnagar districts. Peninsular India, West Bengal, Darjelling.

Elsewhere : Sri Lanka.

22. *Dendrelaphis pictus* (Gmelin)


Material examined : 1 ex. collected from GD area of Ujjain, 17.iv.1995, M. Ingle.

Distribution : Southern India, Eastern Himalayas, Sikkim, the Andamans, Malay, Burma.

23. *Ahaetulla nasutus* (Lacepede)


Distribution : Peninsular India excluding Ganges valley. West of Patna.

24. *Psammophis condanarus* (Merrem)


*Material examined*: 1 ex. collected from a village DI (TT), 15.iii.2001, M. Ingle.

*Distribution*: India: Gujarat: Kachcha district, Maharashtra (Poona, Jalna, Kurnal, Berar), Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal.

*Elsewhere*: Arid and semi arid country in Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand.

*Remarks*: The species is recorded for the first time from the Region.

25. *Boiga trigonata* (Schneider)


*Distribution*: Throughout India: Gujarat: Vadodara, Panchmahals and Dang districts, Peninsular India, Rajasthan.

*Elsewhere*: Sri Lanka.

Family ELAPIDAE

26. *Bungarus caeruleus* (Schneider)


*Distribution*: India: Gujarat: Gandhinagar, Bhavnagar, Dangs, Mehsana, Bharuch districts, West Bengal.

*Elsewhere*: Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

27. *Callophis melanurus* (Shaw)

1703. *Indian Serp.*, Russell, 1: 12, pl. 8.


*Material examined*: 1 ex. collected from an hilly area on the way of Ujjain–Bhopal road in Bhopal district, 20.iii.2001, M. Ingle.
**Distribution**: Peninsular India, Gujarat: Bhavnagar, Dangs, West Bengal, Maharashtra (Bombay, Nagpur), Tamil Nadu.

**Elsewhere**: Ceylon.

**Remarks**: Recorded for the first time from the region.

28. *Naja naja naja* (Linnaeus)


**Distribution**: India: Gujarat: Sanbarkantha, Ahmedabad, Surendra nagar, Surat, Dangs, Junagarh districts, Peninsular India, Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, United Provinces.

**Elsewhere**: Sri Lanka.

**Status**: Very common in some areas of Ujjain.

29. *Naja naja kaouthia* Lesson


**Distribution**: India: Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh & the Himalayas.

**Elsewhere**: Complete Indo-China.

30. *Naja naja oxiana* (Eichwald)


Elsewhere: Transcaspia & Southern Turkmenistan, near the Indian border with Pakistan.

Family VIPERIDAE

31. Vipera russelli (Shaw)


Distribution: India: South India, Western Himalayas, Punjab, West coast, lower Bengal.

Elsewhere: Indian sub continent from Baluchistan in the West & Kashmir in the north to the eastern Himalayas & east wards to Burma, Thailand, Indo-china, Formosa, Indo-Australian Archepalegoe and Sri Lanka.

32. Echis carinatus (Schneider)


Distribution: India South & West of Ganges, Middle east, Cochin, Travancore, Kerala.


33. Trimeresurus gramineus (Shaw)


*Material examined*: 1 ex. collected from Pachmari, Hoshangabad district, 1995, M. Vyas.

Distribution: India: Gujarat: Dangs district, complete Peninsular India South latitude 22°.

SUMMARY

Thirty three species of Snakes occurring in the different urban & rural areas of Ujjain district & surrounding areas of Malwa Region of Madhya Pradesh are discussed.
### Table 1: Species of snakes, area of occurrence & Status in the Ujjain district.

**Urban areas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Area of occurrence</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><em>Typhlops braminus</em></td>
<td>IN, PB, BW, KDP, MN, GK</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><em>Typhlops diardi diardi</em></td>
<td>KC, HS, NG, DM, RN, PB</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><em>Typhlops acutus</em></td>
<td>PB, DG, NKH, DM</td>
<td>UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><em>Python molurus</em></td>
<td>GK-KB</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td><em>Eryx conicus</em></td>
<td>IAAR, GK, VDCM, DM</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td><em>Lycodon aulicus</em></td>
<td>KC, PB, DG</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td><em>Lycodon striatus</em></td>
<td>KC, PB, DG</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td><em>Oligodon arnensis</em></td>
<td>IN, MN, VUC</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td><em>Amphiesma stolata</em></td>
<td>DM, RN, HS</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td><em>Xenochrophis piscator</em></td>
<td>RN, DM, NKH, BW, VDCM, PB, KC</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td><em>Atretium schistosum</em></td>
<td>KDP, NG</td>
<td>UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td><em>Elaphe helena</em></td>
<td>SS, NG, BW, HS, VDCM</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td><em>Ptyas mucosus</em></td>
<td>DM, RN, VUC, VDCM, PB, BW</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td><em>Argyrogena fasciolatus</em></td>
<td>PB, DM, RN, VDCM</td>
<td>UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td><em>Dendrelaphis tristis</em></td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td><em>Bungarus caeruleus</em></td>
<td>IAAR, RN, IN, VDCM</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td><em>Naja naja naja</em></td>
<td>RN, DM, HM, VDCM, IN, NG, HS, GK</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td><em>Naja naja kaouthia</em></td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td><em>Naja naja oxiana</em></td>
<td>DM, RN, NKH, IN, GK, KDP, MN, VUC</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td><em>Vipera russelli</em></td>
<td>HM, RN</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Species of snakes, area of occurrence & Status in the Ujjain district.
(Rural areas)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Area of occurance</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><em>Typhlopidae</em></td>
<td>NK, JP, RU, GHI, DI, PAT, KTH, MKN</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><em>Boidae</em></td>
<td>RV, MKN, PP</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><em>Eryx conicus</em></td>
<td>DI, PAT, KTH, NK, GD, LK, KH</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><em>Eryx johni johni</em></td>
<td>DI, PAT, NL, DH, PBR, BM</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td><em>Oligodontaeniolatus</em></td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>RFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td><em>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</em></td>
<td>BM, LK, KH</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td><em>Ptyas mucosus</em></td>
<td>NK, GD, LK, KH, HP, KTH, GHO, GHI,</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RU, NGR, RV, IND, JT, BH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td><em>Argyrogena fasciolatus</em></td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td><em>Argyrogena gracilis</em></td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>RFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td><em>Dendrelaphis pictus</em></td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td><em>Ahaetulla nasutus</em></td>
<td>PBR, HP</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td><em>Psammophis condanaras</em></td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>RFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td><em>Boiga trigonata</em></td>
<td>NK, JP, PM, BM</td>
<td>UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td><em>Bungarus caeruleus</em></td>
<td>NK, JP, NGD, KM</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td><em>Naja naja naja</em></td>
<td>RUN, PM, PP, NK, PAT, MKN, KTH, DI,</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RV, JH, RU, NGR, LK, KH, HP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td><em>Naja naja oxiana</em></td>
<td>MKN, BH, KTH, IND, JH, RV, NGR, KM,</td>
<td>VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GHI, NK, JP, RUN, DH, LK, KH, HP, BM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td><em>Vipera russelli</em></td>
<td>RUN, PM, NK, JHU, PP, BM, LK, KH, HP,</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>JT, MKN, PAT, DI, KTH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td><em>Echis carinatus</em></td>
<td>PBR, NK, RDH</td>
<td>UC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INGLE: Ophio-fauna of Ujjain & certain areas of Malwa region (Madhya Pradesh)

UJJAIN DISTRICT
RURAL AREAS

KM–KAMTHANA, NGR–NARSINGH GARH, GHI–GHINODA, RU–RUPETA, NGD–NAGDA,
IND–INDOKH, JH–JHARDA, RV–RAGHVI, DI–DUBLI, KTH–KAITHA, BH–BHATUNI,
MKN–MAKRON, PM–PALSODA MAKRAVAN, NK–NARELA KALAN, JHU–JHUMKI,
PANBIHAR, DH–DHALBA, NL–NALWA, BM–BAMORA, LK–LEKORA, KH–KAROHAN,
GD–GAMBHIR DAM, JP–JAHAN GIRPUR, TT–TARANA TENSIL, MT–MAHIDPUR TEHSEL,
KT–KHACHROD TEHSIL, BT–BARNAGAR TEHSIL, UT–UJJAIN TEHSIL.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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REFERENCES