



HERPETOFAUNA OF NAGLOK REGION, JASHPUR DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH

MUKESH INGLE

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INTRODUCTION

The Naglok Region (22°23' to 22°53' N and 83°28' to 84°24' E) in Tapkara-Pharsabaha block of Jashpur district lies in the eastern part of Chhattisgarh state adjoining the borders of Jharkhand, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. The study area extends throughout the Naglok Region. The majorities of survey sites are primarily located within the protected areas or reserved forests of Sarajhariya, Bansajhal, Mirigkhol, Sahilata, Ranibandh, Satpuriya, Baluabaha, Kohpani, Pharsabaha, Baro, Singibaha, Lathbhora, Jabla, Jharmuda, Bhalumuda, Kharibaha, Konpara, Tiklipara, Matipaharchharra, Lawakera, Purainbandh regions.

In the study area, there is mixed forests dominated by sal (*Sorea robusta*) spread over plains to hilly mountain ranges. A total of 211 species of plants have been recorded from the area comprising 110 species of plants and trees, 45 shrubs and scrubs, 28 Climbers, 5 bamboo, 1epiphyte, 3 parasites and 21 species of grasses (Chaudhary & Thapliyal, 2004-05, *Working Plan of Jashpur Forest Division*).

This area mainly falls under the lower ghats dominated by dry deciduous forests and Southern dry-mixed forests. In the uplands, Salai (*Terminalia serrata*), Saja (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Mahua (*Madhuca indica*), Dhawda (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Harra (*Terminalia chebula*), Bel (*Aegle marmelos*), Pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), Kusum (*Schleicheraoneosa*), Mundi (*Mitryagyna parviflora*), Dhaman (*Grewia tiliaefolia*), Dhobin (*Dalbergia paniculata*), Aam (*Mangifera indica*), Arjun (*Terminalia arjuna*) and Sal (*Sorea robusta*) are found whereas Amla (*Emblica officinalis*), Ghont (*Zizyphus xylopara*), Bhelwa (*Semecarpus anacardium*), Char (*Buchanania lanzan*), Bhirra (*Chlorxylon swietenoides*), Kumbhi (*Careya arborea*), Tinsa (*Ougeinia oojeinensis*), Palash (*Butea monosperma*), Khair (*Acacia catechu*), Amti (*Bahunia*

malabarica), are found in the low lands. Shrubs like; Chhind (*Phoenix acaulis*), Ban Tulsi (*Eranthemum puloneium*), Pak, Khirsali also occur.

The configuration of land is diversified broadly into lower and upper ghats. The study area mainly comes under lower ghats containing medium hilly tracts comparatively with undulating and plain areas. The hills run in all direction and have slopes and valleys. The soil of study area is mainly sandy and color is brown and red.

The climate of the study area is semi tropical in general. The average annual rainfall is 1170 mm.



Fig. 1 : Map showing the location of Naglok Region, Jashpur district, Chhattisgarh, India. On the top, map of India showing Chhattisgarh state; in the middle, map of Chhattisgarh showing the location of Jashpur and Naglok Region; and on the bottom the Naglok Region with localities mentioned in the text.

December-January months are the coldest months when the temperature falls to 3°-5°C. In summer, April-May are usually the hottest months of the year when temperature raises up to 47°C.

Representative areas of different habitat of Jashpur district were selected for detailed survey. A total of about 112 localities were covered in the two areas (lower and upper ghats) under the seven blocks (Tapkara, Kunkuri, Kansabel, Duldula, Paththalgaon, Bagicha and

Sanna). The surveys were conducted covering all above mentioned blocks.

1. *Tapkara* : Sarap Jharia, Samartal, Ghumara, Sundru, Mirigkhol, Bansajhal, Lawakera, Sahilata, Samdama Purainbandh, Baluabaha, Jamuna.
2. *Kunkuri* : Lotapani, Kunjara, Dhongaamba, Raikera, Babusajbahar.
3. *Kansabel* : Siharbud, Kansabel.
4. *Sanna* : Sonkiyari, Sela, Haridiya.

Table-1. Amphibian and Reptilian species of Naglok region Jashpur showing common name, localities and status

Sl. No.	Order/family/species	Common Name	Localities	Status (protected under WL(P)A,1972)
AMPHIBIANS				
Order ANURA				
Family BUFONIDAE				
1.	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i> (Schneider)	Common Asian Toad	Tapkara, Pharsabaha, Kunkuri, Kansabel block	Abundant
2.	<i>Duttaphrynus stomaticus</i> (Lutken)	Marbled Toad	Tapkara, Pharsabaha, Kunkuri block	Uncommon
Family MICROHYLIDAE				
3.	<i>Microhyla ornata</i> (Dum. & Bib.)	Narrow-mouthed Frog	Tapkara block	Uncommon
Family RANIDAE				
4.	<i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i> (Daudin)	Indian Bull Frog	Pharsabaha block	Very Common
Family RHACOPHORIDAE				
5.	<i>Polypedates maculatus</i> (Gray)	Common Tree Frog	Tapkara block	Uncommon
REPTILES				
Order TESTUDINES				
Family TRIONYCHIDAE				
6.	<i>Lissemys punctata punctata</i> (Lacepede)	Indian Flap-shell Turtle	Tapkara, Kunkuri block	Sch. I
Order SQUAMATA				
Suborder SAURIA				
Family GEKKONIDAE				
7.	<i>Hemidactylus brookii</i> (Gray)	Spotted House Gecko	Tapkara, Pharsabaha, Kunkuri, Kansabel block	Abundant
8.	<i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i> (Ruppell)	Yellow-Bellied House Gecko	Tapkara, Bagbahar block	Abundant
9.	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> (Schlegel in : Dum. & Bib.)		Kansabel, Sanna block	Not Common
10.	<i>Hemidactylus triedrus</i> (Daudin)	Termite-Hill Gecko	Tapkara, Pharsabaha, Duldula, Sanna, Kansabel block	Common
11.	<i>Hemidactylus maculatus</i> (Dum. & Bib.)	Rock Gecko	Sanna block	Common
Family AGAMIDAE				
12.	<i>Calotes versicolor</i> (Daudin)	Common Garden Lizard	Tapkara, Pharsabaha, Duldula, Sanna, Kansabel	Abundant
13.	<i>Sitana ponticeriana</i> (Cuvier)	Fan-throated Lizard	Tapkara, Sanna, Kansabel block	Abundant
14.	<i>Psammophilus blanfordanus</i> (Stoliczka)	Blanford's Rock Agama	Ranibandh, Sanna, Kansabel block	Abundant

Table-1. Cont'd.

Sl. No.	Order/family/species	Common Name	Localities	Status (protected under WL(P)A,1972)
15.	Family CHAMALEONIDAE <i>Chamaeleo zeylanicus</i> (Daudin)	Indian Chamaeleon	Sanna block	Vulnerable
16.	Family SCINCIDAE <i>Mabuya carinata</i> (Schneider)	Keeled Grass Skink	Tapkara, Paththalgaon, Duldula, Sanna, Kansabel blocks	Abundant
17.	<i>Riopa albopunctata</i> (Gray)	White-spotted supple Skink	Tapkara, Sanna, Kansabel blocks	Uncommon
18.	Family VARANIDAE <i>Varanus bengalensis</i> (Linnaeus)	Bengal Monitor	Pharsabahar, Duldula, Kansabel blocks	Sch. II
19.	Family TYPHLOPIDAE <i>Ramphotyphlops braminus</i> (Daudin)	Common Worm Snake	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Kansabel	Sch. IV
20.	<i>Grypotyphlops acutus</i> (Dumeril & Bibron)	Beaked Worm Snake	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri blocks	Sch. IV
21.	Family BOIDAE <i>Python molurus</i> (Linnaeus)	Indian Rock Python	Tapkara block	Sch. I
22.	<i>Gongylophis conicus</i> (Schneider)	Brown Sand Boa	Tapkara, Kansabel, Kunkuri blocks	Sch. IV
23.	<i>Eryx johnii</i> (Russell)	Red Sand Boa	Tapkara, Kansabel block	Sch. IV
24.	Family COLUBRIDAE <i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i> (Lacepede)	Green Vine Snake	Sanna block	Sch. IV
25.	<i>Amphiesma stolatum</i> (Linnaeus)	Striped Keel back	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Bagicha blocks	Sch. IV
26.	<i>Argyrogena fasciolata</i> (Shaw)	Banded Racer	Pharsabahar block	Sch. IV
27.	<i>Boiga trigonata</i> (Schneider)	Common Cat Snake	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Bagicha blocks	Sch. IV
28.	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i> (Daudin)	Common Bronze back Tree Snake	Bagbahar block	Sch. IV
29.	<i>Coelognathus helena</i> (Daudin)	Common Trinket	Pharsabahar block	Sch. IV
30.	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Wolf Snake	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Bagicha blocks	Sch. IV
31.	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i> (Cantor)	Green Keel back	Pharsabahar blocks	Sch. IV
32.	<i>Oligodon arnensis</i> (Shaw)	Common Kukri Snake	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Bagicha blocks	Sch. IV
33.	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i> (Linnaeus)	Indian Rat Snake	Tapkara, Patthalgaon, Kunkuri, Bagicha blocks	Sch. II
34.	<i>Xenochrophis piscator</i> (Schneider)	Checkered Keelback	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Bagicha blocks	Sch. II
35.	Family ELAPIDAE <i>Bungarus caeruleus</i> (Schneider)	Common Indian Krait	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Paththalgaon, Kunkuri Narayanpur blocks	Sch. IV
36.	<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i> (Schneider)	Banded Krait	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri block	Sch. IV
37.	<i>Naja naja</i> (Linnaeus)	Spectacled Cobra or Binocellate Cobra	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri blocks	Sch. II
38.	Family VIPERIDAE <i>Daboia russelii</i> (Shaw)	Russell's Viper	Tapkara, Kansabel block	Sch. II

Table-2. Observation of Amphibians and Reptiles (number and density) in Naglok Region, Jashpur District

Sl. No.	Order/family/species	Localities	Total No.	Density/%
	AMPHIBIANS			
	Order ANURA			
	Family BUFONIDAE			
1.	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i> (Schneider)	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Kansabel block	52	9.09
2.	<i>Duttaphrynus stomaticus</i> (Lutken)	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri block	36	6.29
	Family MICROHYLIDAE			
3.	<i>Microhyla ornata</i> (Dum. & Bib.)	Tapkara block	13	2.27
	Family RANIDAE			
4.	<i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i> (Daudin)	Pharsabahar block	56	9.79
	Family RHACOPHORIDAE			
5.	<i>Polypedates maculatus</i> (Grey)	Tapkara block	11	1.92
	REPTILES			
	Order TESTUDINES			
	Family TRIONYCHIDAE			
6.	<i>Lissemys punctata punctata</i> (Lacepede)	Tapkara, Kunkuri block	01	0.17
	Order SQUAMATA			
	Suborder SAURIA			
	Family GEKKONIDAE			
7.	<i>Hemidactylus brooki</i> (Gray)	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Kansabel block	06	1.04
8.	<i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i> (Ruppell)	Tapkara, Bagbahar	04	0.69
9.	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> (Schlegel in: Dum. & Bib.)	Kansabel, Sanna block	03	0.52
10.	<i>Hemidactylus triedrus</i> (Daudin)	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Duldula, Sanna, Kansabel block	21	3.67
11.	<i>Hemidactylus maculatus</i> (Dum. & Bib.)	Sanna block	02	0.34
	Family AGAMIDAE			
12.	<i>Calotes versicolor</i> (Daudin)	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Duldula, Sanna, Kansabel block	16	2.79
13.	<i>Sitana ponticeriana</i> (Cuvier)	Tapkara, Sanna, Kansabel	17	2.97
14.	<i>Psammophilus blanfordanus</i> (Stoliczka)	Ranibandh, Sanna, Kansabel block	11	1.92
	Family CHAMAELEONIDAE			
15.	<i>Chamaeleo zeylanicus</i> (Daudin)	Sanna block	01	0.17
	Family SCINCIDAE			
16.	<i>Mabuya carinata</i> (Schneider)	Tapkara, Paththalgaon, Duldula, Sanna, Kansabel block	17	2.97
17.	<i>Riopa albopunctata</i> (Gray)	Tapkara, Sanna, Kansabel block	06	1.04
	Family VARANIDAE			
18.	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i> (Linnaeus)	Pharsabahar, Duldula, Kansabel	03	0.52
	Family TYPHLOPIDAE			
19.	<i>Ramphotyphlops braminus</i> (Daudin)	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Kansabel block	10	1.74
20.	<i>Grypotyphlops acutus</i> (Dumeril & Bibron)	Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri block	03	0.52

Table-2. Cont'd.

Sl. No.	Order/family/species	Localities	Total No.	Density/%
	Family BOIDAE			
21.	<i>Python molurus</i> (Linnaeus)	Tapkara block	11	1.92
22.	<i>Gongylophis conicus</i> (Schneider)	Tapkara, Kansabel, Kunkuri	03	0.52
23.	<i>Eryx johnii</i> (Russell)	Tapkara, Kansabel block	02	0.34
	Family COLUBRIDAE			
24.	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i> (Lacepede)	Sanna block	02	0.34
25.	<i>Amphiesma stolatum</i> (Linnaeus)	Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri, Bagicha block	70	12.23
26.	<i>Argyrogena fasciolata</i> (Shaw)	Pharsabahaar block	03	0.52
27.	<i>Boiga trigonata</i> (Schneider)	Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri, Bagicha block	42	7.34
28.	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i> (Daudin)	Bagbahaar	04	0.69
29.	<i>Coelognathus helena</i> (Daudin)	Pharsabahaar	04	0.69
30.	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i> (Linnaeus)	Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri, Bagicha block	07	1.22
31.	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i> (Cantor)	Pharsabahaar	02	0.34
32.	<i>Oligodon arnensis</i> (Shaw)	Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri, Bagicha block	04	0.69
33.	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i> (Linnaeus)	Tapkara, Paththalgaon, Kunkuri, Bagicha block	16	2.79
34.	<i>Xenochrophis piscator piscator</i> (Schneider)	Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri, Bagicha	25	4.37
	Family ELAPIDAE			
35.	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i> (Schneider)	Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri Paththalgaon, Narayanpur block	37	6.46
36.	<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i> (Schneider)	Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri	09	1.57
37.	<i>Naja naja</i> (Linnaeus)	Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri	31	5.41
	Family VIPERIDAE			
38.	<i>Daboia russelii</i> (Shaw)	Tapkara, Kansabel block	11	1.92
		Total	404	

5. *Duldula* : Nawapara, Kersai, Kinket, Sitonga.

6. *Paththalgaon* : Jhimki, Bargaon, Veldegi, Senata, Sitapur.

7. *Bagicha* : Gumhawona, Mena, Ghurdega, Dangri, Phuljhar.

The present paper is based on the study of amphibians and reptiles collected/ observed from Naglok Region and surroundings of Jashpur district during 2002 to 2006. The present studies are based on 38 species of reptiles & amphibians belonging to 15 families. The available information pertaining to Chhattisgarh is found in the works of Smith (1935, 1943) who showed the distribution of 33 species of reptiles in central India and central provinces. Daniel & Selukar (1964) reported the occurrence of *Rana malabarica* in Bastar district. Agrawal (1981) recorded 8 species of

reptiles from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Sanyal & Dasgupta (1990) reported 19 species of reptiles from Bastar. Sanyal (1995) reported 12 species of reptiles from Indrâvati Tiger reserve. Aengals & Rajarathinam (2001) reported 11 species of reptiles from Raipur district. But these concern mainly the herpetology of Bastar, Sarguja, Bilaspur and Raipur districts. Ingle (2003) recorded 5 species of amphibians and 31 species of reptiles from Jashpur district. The present article reports the herpetofaunal diversity of Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Class AMPHIBIA

Key to orders to ANURA

Skin with numerous folds, wrinkles-warts
 Bufonidae

Body stout, flat & triangular, head small with a narrow mouth & short snout..... Microhylidae

Skin slimy, body oval & flattened, snout broad & rounded Ranidae

Body slender, eyes on side & bulging, very long & slender limbs Emydidae

Class AMPHIBIA

Order ANURA

Family BUFONIDAE

1. ***Duttaphrynus melanostictus*** (Schneider)
(Common Indian Toad)

1799. *Bufo melanostictus*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.* 1, Jena, : 216.

2006. *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, Frost, *et al.* : The Amphibian Tree of Life. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 297 : 364-365.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Pharsabahaar, Kunkuri and Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : These are slow moving and hop after small insects, earthworm and feed on them. The adults are very fond of gathering around streetlamps. These are available in any kind of habitat. They show a marked preference for human modified habits and may be seen along the edges of forests.

Diagnostic characters : The females are larger than the males and the maximum length for the adult is 15 cm. The top and sides of the head, snout and region between the eyes are smooth. The back is covered with conical warts. There are pimple like warts on the sole and toes. The juveniles lack the warts and often have a very inconspicuous eardrum.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Conservation status : Abundant.

2. ***Duttaphrynus stomaticus*** (Lutken)
(Marbled Toad)

1862. *Bufo stomaticus* Lutken, *Bulletin Chicago Herp. Soc.* 37(12) : 216-219.

2006. *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, Frost, *et al.* : The Amphibian Tree of Life. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, 297 : 364-365.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Pharsabahaar and Kunkuri.

Habit and habitat : These are most active at night and known to be more agile than the Common Indian toad. Food consists of a variety of insects; other arthropods and snails termites are preferable. They prefer drier habitats.

Diagnostic characters : The maximum length of the adults is 9 cm. The eardrum is as large as eye; the toes

are about 2/3rd webbed. The digging appendages on the sole are equal in size with sharp edges.

Distribution : India : Peninsular India : Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Conservation status : Uncommon.

Family MICROHYLIDAE

3. ***Microhyla ornata*** (Dumeril & Bibron)
(Ornate Narrow-Mouthed Frog)

1841. *Engystoma ornata*, Dumeril. & Bibron, *Erp. Gen.*, 8 : 745.

1985. *Microhyla ornata*, Frost, *Amphibian species of the world* : 387.

Observation localities : Tapkara.

Habit and habitat : It is a very active frog; capable of leaping high. Feets amongst grass, but does not hesitate to enter home-steads. Feeds mainly on ants and other insects and has a wide habitat preference ranging from urban gardens to dense forests.

Diagnostic Characters : The head is small with a narrow pointed snout and eardrum is not visible. The fingers and toes do not bear enlarged discs and the webbing on the toes is rudimentary. The average length is 2.5 cm.

Distribution : India : West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Kerala.

Conservation status : Uncommon.

Family RANIDAE

4. ***Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*** (Daudin)
(Indian Bull Frog)

1803. *Rana tigerina*, Daudin, *Hist. Rain. Gern. Crap.* : 64.

1992. *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*, Dubois, *Bull. Mens. Soc. Linn. Lyon*, 61 : 315.

Observation localities : Pharsabahaar.

Habit and habitat : It is the largest frog in India. A slow mover, but is not very shy. Feeds on almost anything from smaller individuals on its own species to small birds, rodents and snakes. It is often found in the hills, inhabiting rice plantations, irrigation channels, ponds and stream-sides.

Diagnostic characters : It is easily identified by its large size, bold finger-like stripes and spots on the pale skin. These are very bulky frogs with long and muscular limbs. The snout distinctly long and pointed. The skin on the back bears numerous folds. The toes are extensively webbed. The vocal sacs are external and blue in color. The males are smaller and darker than the females.

Distribution : All over India up to 1100 m.

Conservation status : Abundant.

Family RHACOPHORIDAE

5. *Polypedates maculatus* (Gray)

(Common Tree Frog)

1832. *Hyla maculate* Gray, III. *Indian Zool.*, 1 pl. 82, fig. 1.

1997. *Polypedates maculatus* : *Amph. India Sri Lanka* : 96-97.

Observation localities : Sarap Jhariya and Sanna region.

Habit and habitat : Take a shelter within crevices on rocks, between leaves, under barks on trees and exposed on tree trunks. It is famous for its fondness for inhabiting human dwellings. It is an urban tree frog; however it also occurs within secondary forests.

Diagnostic characters : The females are larger than the males and the length is 3.5 to 8.5 cm. The eardrum is distinct and is as big as eye; the nostril is closer to the tip of the snout than to the eyes. The toes are about half webbed. The first and second fingers are almost equal in length. The single internal vocal sac is clearly visible when the males call.

Distribution : India : Plains of India in general.

Conservation status : Uncommon.

Class REPTILIA

Key to orders to REPTILIA

The body is enclosed in a box-like bony or leathery shell Testudines

Body not enclosed in a box-like bony/leathery shell, limbs present or absent Squamata

Order TESTUDINES

Key to families of order TESTUDINES

Limbs more or less cylindrical, digits not webbed. Testudinidae

Limbs paddle-shaped but more or less flattened; digits webbed Emydidae

Order TESTUDINES

Family TRIONYCHIDAE

6. *Lissemys punctata punctata* (Lecepede, 1789)

(North-Indian Flap shell Turtle)

1931. *Lissemys punctata punctata*, Smith, *Fauna Brit. India, Reptilia & Amphibia*, 1 : 157.

1998. *Lissemys punctata punctata*, Sharma, *Fauna of India, Reptilia, Testudines and Crocodilians*, I, p. 125.

Observation localities : Tapkara and Kunkuri.

Habit and habitat : It inhabits in ponds, rivers, rice fields, muddy ditches, lakes and marshes. It is

carnivorous and feeds on animal corpses, frogs, fishes, tadpoles, shrimps and snails.

Diagnostic characters : It is a doomed soft shell small, flat turtle, generally less than 24 cm. in length. The head is moderately large; the snout is very short, olive- brown above. Carapace is grey-green, with numerous black-bordered yellow spots, irregularly arranged and with a light yellow marginal rim. Plastron is cream or pale yellow.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Conservation status : Scheduled I st.

Order SQUAMATA

Key to Families of order SQUAMATA

1. Limbs present suborder Sauria 2
- Limbs absent suborder Serpentes 6
2. Tongue rather broad and short 3
- Tongue smooth, very long and retractile 6
3. Tongue covered with villose papillae 4
- Tongue covered with imbricate, scale-like papillae... 5
4. Tongue covered with villose papillae; eyes usually without movable eyelids; teeth are pleurodont Gekkonidae
- Tongue smooth or covered with villose papillae; eyes with movable eyelids; teeth are acrodont Agamidae
5. Tongue covered with imbricate; scale-like papillae feebly nicked anteriorly; body covered with cycloid imbricate scales, with osteodermal plates on body.. Scincidae
- Tongue covered with imbricate papillae or transverse plicate, forked anteriorly; dorsal scales much differentiated from those on the belly no osteodermal plates on body Lacertidae
6. Tongue bifid, retractile into a sheath at the base as in snakes; back covered with rounded scales; generally without osteodermal plates Varanidae
7. No poison fangs in the front of the jaw 8
- Poison fangs in the front of the jaw 10
8. Teeth only in the upper jaw, eyes vestigial, body worm like Typhlopidae
- Teeth in both jaws, eyes exposed 9
9. Ventrals narrow, but quite distinct; more than 40 scales round the body Boidae
- Ventrals nearly or quite as broad as the body; tail cylindrical, pointed..... Colubridae

10. Maxillary bone with teeth behind the fangs, pupil round Elapidae
 – Maxillary bone very short, bearing fangs only; pupil vertical Viperidae

Suborder SAURIA

Family GECKKONIDAE

7. *Hemidactylus brookii* (Gray)

(Spotted House Gecko)

1845. *Hemidactylus brookii*, Gray, *Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus*, 153.
 2002. *Hemidactylus brookii*, Das, *Snakes & other Reptiles of India*, p. 97.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Pharsabaha, Kunkuri, Kansabel bocks.

Habit and habitat : Largely terrestrial, inhabits parks, trees, rocks, under stones and in and around human settlements. Chiefly feeds on insects.

Diagnostic characters : Head oval; snout obtusely pointed. Head scales small; body flattened with granular scales and rows of tubercles; tail plump with it on dorsum. Belly cream.

Distribution : Throughout the Indian sub-region.

Conservation status : Very common.

8. *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* (Ruppell)

(Yellow-green House Gecko)

1835. *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* Ruppell, *Neue Wirb. Fauna, Abyss* : p. 18, pl. 6, Fig. 2.
 2002. *Hemidactylus flaviviridis*, Das, *Snakes and other Reptiles of India*, p. 97.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Bagbahar.

Habit and habitat : Insectivorous and generally feeds on flies, bugs, mole cricket, beetles, termites, spiders and moths. Nocturnal, but can be seen during day time also. Inhabits in the buildings, most agile, and a marked climber.

Diagnostic characters : Head oval with a broad snout. Body flattened; dorsum lacking tubercles; dorsum pale-grey at night to olive by day; belly light-yellow.

Distribution : Throughout India, but widely in North India.

Conservation status : Very common.

9. *Hemidactylus frenatus* (Schlegal in : Dum. & Bib.)

(Asian House Gecko)

1836. *Hemidactylus frenatus* Schlegal in : Dum. & Bibr. *Erp. Gen. III*, p. 366.
 2002. *Hemidactylus frenatus* Das, *Snakes and other Reptiles of India*, p. 98.

Observation localities : Kansabel, Sanna.

Habits and habitat : It inhabits man-made structures as well as forested areas. Its diet comprises of insects and spiders.

Diagnostic characters : It is a small but loud house gecko, head large, dorsal scales smooth, lack of webbing in fingers and toes, skin sides of tail showing enlarged tubercles. No flaps of skin along sides of body and at back of hind limbs, dorsum grayish brown, sometimes with darker markings, a brown streak with a light edge on the top along the side of the head. Belly un patterned cream. The average length is 7 cm.

Distribution : India.

Conservation status : Uncommon.

10. *Hemidactylus triedrus* (Daudin)

(Termite Hill Gecko)

1802. *Gecko triedrus* Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept. iv*, p. 155.
 2002. *Hemidactylus triedrus* Das, *Snakes and other Reptiles of India*, p. 100.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Pharsabaha, Duldula, Sanna and Kansabel.

Habits and Habitat : Nocturnal and terrestrial; inhabits open forests and scrub land. It shelters during the day in rock cracks and rodent burrows. Its diet comprises termites, crickets, grasshoppers, spiders and beetles.

Diagnostic characters : It is a beautiful banded gecko. The head is large, and indistinct lateral skin fold present, dorsum with 16-18 rows of large, convex tubercles, color yellowish-olive with three large brown saddle-like patches edged with black. Head with yellow stripes from behind eye and across nape.

Distribution : India.

Conservation status : Very common.

11. *Hemidactylus maculatus* (Dumeril & Bibron)

(Spotted Rock Gecko)

1836. *Hemidactylus maculatus* Dumeril & Bibron, *Erp. Gen.*, 3 : p. 358.
 2002. *Hemidactylus maculatus* Das, *Snakes and other Reptiles of India*, p. 99.

Observation localities : Sanna.

Habit and habitat : Inhabits rocky outcrops, including caves and cracks and on walls of buildings and on trees. Feeds on insects as well as other geckos.

Diagnostic characters : It is a large rock gecko with a pointed snout, forehead with large scattered scales, dorsum grayish with black blotches, ventrals smooth.

Distribution : India : Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karela, Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu.

Conservation status : Common.

Family AGAMIDAE

12. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin)

(Indian Garden Lizard)

1802. *Agama versicolor* Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rep.*, 3 : 395.
 2002. *Calotes versicolor*, Das, *Snakes and other Reptiles of India*, p. 74.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Pharsabaha, Duldula, Sanna and Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : Most abundant and widespread arboreal lizard found in parks, trees, shrubs etc. Chiefly feeds on insects though invertebrates are also taken.

Diagnostic characters : Head rather large; coloration variable from light-brown or grayish above, uniform or with more or less distinct dark brown transverse spots or bars upon the back and sides; or variegated with dark brown; tail with light and dark annuli. Head bright-red, a black patch on the throat. Male exceeds females in size and shows swollen cheeks and longer dorsal spines.

Distribution : India : Eastern Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Northern Maharashtra and western Uttar Pradesh.

Conservation status : Very common.

13. *Sitana ponticeriana* (Cuvier)

(Fan Throated Lizard)

1844. *Sitana ponticeriana* Cuvier, *Guerin Icon. Reg. Anima. Rep.* : pl. 10, fig. 2.
 2002. *Sitana ponticeriana*, Sharma, *Fauna of India, Reptilia, Sauria*, II, p. 164.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Sanna, Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : Diurnal and terrestrial and prefers rocky terrain scrub jungles and sandy areas. Diet comprises of termites, beetles and bugs.

Diagnostic characters : Snout rather acute, tympanum present, hind limbs elongated with only 4 toes; scales keeled, femoral pores absent; tail long and slender. Dorsum light/dark brown; black edged, diamond shaped marks mouth lining dark blue; belly cream.

Distribution : Throughout India except at heavy rainfall areas.

Conservation status : Common.

14. *Psammophilus blanfordanus* (Stoliczka)

(Blanford's Rock Agama)

1871. *Charasia blanfordanus* Stoliczka, *Asiatic. Soc. Beng.* : 194.
 2002. *Psammophilus blanfordanus*, Sharma, *Fauna of India, Reptilia, Sauria*, II, p. 224.

Observation localities : Ranibandh, Sanna, Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : A rock dwelling species showed a marked preference for insects.

Diagnostic characters : It is olive-brown or dark-brown in dorsal coloration, spotted profusely with brown and usually with a series of large, boat shaped dark-brown spots with light brown or pale centers on the complete back and tail. In the adult male, these markings of back and tail merge-out and giving the lizard somewhat brownish appearance. Standard length: 100 mm; tail length 200 mm.

Distribution : India : Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Eastern and Western Ghats.

Conservation status : Abundant.

Family CHAMAELEONIDAE

15. *Chamaeleo zeylanicus* (Laurenti)

(South Asian Chamaeleon)

1836. *Chamaeleo zeylanicus* Laurenti, *Syn. Rept.* p. 46.
 2002. *Chamaeleo zeylanicus* Das, *Snakes and other Reptiles of India*, p. 82.

Observation localities : Sanna.

Habit and habitat : Arboreal lizards inhabiting shrubs and trees and have a remarkable capacity to change body color from green to yellow. Feed on insects.

Diagnostic characters : Head with distinct helmet-like projection, orbit of eye large, eyeball covered with skin living a tiny aperture. Scales on body enlarged, tuberculated. A low serrated dorsal crest extending to prehensile tail. Fingers and toes opposable. Males have spur like projection on hind limbs.

Distribution : India : Gujarat, South Gangetic plains and South India.

Conservation status : Rare.

Family SCINCIDAE

16. *Mabuya carinata* (Schneider)

(Keeled Grass Skink)

1807. *Scincus carinata* Schneider, *Hist. Amphib.* 2 : 183.
 2002. *Mabuya carinata*, Das, *Snakes and other Reptiles of India*, p. 109.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Patthalgaon, Duldula, Sanna, Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : A diurnal, terrestrial, insectivorous skink occasionally feed on small vertebrates.

Diagnostic characters : Body robust; lower eyelids scaly; vertebral scales smooth. Coloration; brown to olive or bronzy above, uniform or with dark-brown or black spots, or longitudinal streaks along the lateral margins of the scales. Sides are darker brown or chestnut, with or without light spots. A light dorso-lateral line starting from above the eye and continued to the base of the tail. Lower parts whitish or yellowish.

Distribution : Throughout India except North-west India and West Bengal.

Conservation status : Very Common.

17. ***Riopa albopunctata*** (Gray)
(Brown Dwarf Skink)

1845. *Riopa albopunctata*, Gray, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, **18** : 430.

2002. *Riopa albopunctata*, Sharma, *Fauna of India, Reptilia, Sauria*, **II**, p. 319.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Sanna, Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : It is an insectivorous skink and prefers terrestrial habitats.

Diagnostic characters : Brown or reddish-brown above, each scale with a more or less distinct dark spot forming longitudinal series; sides on neck and anterior part of body dark brown or black, thickly spotted with white; yellowish-white below. Body scales are almost equal, dorsal may or may not be larger than the lateral scales; 26-28 scales round the middle of the body; 63-72 scales are down the middle of the back. The limbs are moderately large; digits are short, 12-15 lamellae under the fourth toe; tail swollen at the base; standard length 60 mm.

Distribution : India : Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Karela.

Conservation status : Common.

Family VARANIDAE

18. ***Varanus bengalensis*** (Linnaeus)
(Common Indian Monitor)

1758. *Lacerta monitor*, Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. ed.*, **10** : 201.

2002. *Varanus bengalensis*, Sharma, *Fauna of India, Reptilia, Sauria*, **II**, p. 402.

Observation localities : Pharsabahar, Duldula, Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : This lizard shows burrowing habits and prefers to live in burrows, hollow old trees, nalas, under stones and boulders in dense vegetation bordering marshes, ponds, canals and tanks. Feeds mainly on insects, small mammals, snakes, lizards and vegetable matter.

Diagnostic characters : It is a medium-sized, dark-brown monitor, about 72-75 cm. in head and body length. The tail is very strong, long, compressed and measures about 100 cm. in length. The snout is convex terminally. The nostrils are oblique slits lying midway between the eye and the end of the muzzle. The tongue is very long, forked and protrusible.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Conservation status : Endangered.

Suborder SERPENTES

Family TYPHLOPIDAE

19. ***Ramphotyphlops braminus*** (Daudin)
(Brahminy Worm Snake)

1803. *Eryx braminus*, Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept.*, **7** : 279.

2004. *Ramphotyphlops braminus*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 46.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Pharsabahar, Kunkuri, Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : Spends its life underground or lives beneath the soil, stones or debris. It also found under logs, moist leaves and humus in wet forests. Feeds on soft bodied larvae and eggs of ants and termites.

Diagnostic characters : Snout rounded; strongly projecting; nostrils lateral; eyes distinct, Scales in 20 rows around the body; 290-320 transverse rows of scales. Length about 150 mm. coloration brown or blackish above, lighter below, snout, anal region and end of tail usually whitish with smooth scales.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Conservation status : Common.

20. ***Grypotyphlops acutus*** (Dumeril & Bibron)
(Beaked Worm Snake)

1844. *Ongchocephalus acutus* Dum. & Bib., *Erp. Gen.* **vi** : 333.

2004. *Grypotyphlops acutus*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 52.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Pharsabahar and Kunkuri.

Habit and habitat : Mainly nocturnal and very agile. Strong burrower and spends most of its life underground. Feeds on worms, soft bodied larvae and eggs of ants and termites are also taken.

Diagnostic characters : Scales smooth; head same width as body; snout pointed with large. Hooked beak-like scale. Nostrils below the 'beak'. Short tails ends in a spine. Glossy brown above, distinctly paler below.

Distribution : Peninsular India, south of Ganges Basin and south of Rajasthan, west to Baroda and east of Kolkata.

Conservation status : Uncommon.

Family: BOIDAE

21. ***Python molurus molurus*** (Linnaeus)
(Indian Rock Python)

1758. *Coluber molurus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, 10th ed. : 225.

2004. *Python molurus molurus*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 74.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Kohpani.

Habit and habitat : Nocturnal; inhabits in dense as well as in open forests with rocky outcrops near to marshes or streams. Feeds mainly on warm-blooded prey ranging in size from mice and birds to jackals, civets and even deer and wild boar.

Diagnostic characters : Thick-bodied; smooth scaled. Head broader than neck; eye has vertical pupil. Upper surface of head has large scales of different size and shape. Yellowish to brown with asymmetrical dark-brown black-edged blotches. Tip of arrow-head mark on head. Two dark streaks on side of head-one below, the other through/behind eye. Underside white or yellowish.

Distribution : Throughout India (except the Islands) up to 2000 m above sea level.

Conservation status : Schedule-I st.

22. ***Gongylophis conicus*** (Schneider)
(Common Sand Boa)

1801. *Boa conica* Schneider, *Hist. Amphibia*, ii : 268.

2004. *Gongylophis conicus*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 80.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Kansabel and Kunkuri.

Habit and habitat : Mainly nocturnal and feeds on insects, lizards, snakes, birds and rodents.

Diagnostic characters : Short and thick bodied. Scales of head and tail strongly keeled. Small eye with vertical pupil. Tail very short. Coloration variable; reddish-brown; yellowish-white, dark-brown or black with irregular usually dark brown, black-edged blotches. Under part yellowish-white.

Distribution : Throughout India (excluding the Northeast, Andamans and Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep).

Conservation status : Common.

23. ***Eryx johnii*** (Russell)
(Red Sand Boa)

1801. *Boa johnii* Russell, *Ind. Serp.*, ii : 18 and 20.

2004. *Eryx johnii*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 82.

Observation localities : Tapkara, Kansabel.

Habit and habitat : Prefers dry places, sandy soil and often lives in rodent burrows. Feeds on insects, lizards, birds and rodents.

Diagnostic characters : This is a thick-bodied snake and can be recognized by its completely blunt tail very similar to head. The scales are small and weakly keeled. It is a medium-sized, stout, heavy and muscular bodied snake. The eyes are small; with vertical pupil. Coloration variable; reddish-brown, dark-brown, speckled gray, yellow or black; belly white; spotted with brown.

Conservation status : Uncommon.

Family COLUBRIDAE

24. ***Ahaetulla nasuta*** (Lacepede)
(Common Vine Snake)

1758. *Coluber nasuta* Lacepede, *Hist. Nat. Serp.* I : 100.

2004. *Ahaetulla nasuta*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 270.

Habit and habitat : An elegant diurnal snake usually seen on low bushes or trees, rarely on the ground. Feeds mainly on lizards, frogs, small birds and mice.

Diagnostic characters : It is a long, slender, smooth-scaled snake. Extremely pointed head has extended snout; eyes large with horizontal pupil. Tail long. Uniform parrot-green back, often with a thin white or yellow line separating upper body scales from belly scales.

Distribution : Throughout India (except in the northwest and much of the Gangetic basin). Known from Bengal (Jalpaiguri); extent of distribution in the northeast uncertain.

Conservation status : Rare.

25. ***Amphiesma stolatum*** (Linnaeus)
(Striped Keel back Snake)

1758. *Coluber stolata* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* : 219.

2004. *Amphiesma stolatum*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 204.

Habit and habitat : These little and gentle snakes are quite inoffensive; frequently found in cultivated areas, grasslands and bushes and can be seen in big numbers in rains hiding in the holes in the ground.

Diagnostic characters : This is a small-sized, slender bodied snake with strongly keeled scales and long tail. The body is elongated and neck fairly evident. Eyes are large, pupil rounded, flecked with gold. Brown back

with two distinct ribbon-like yellowish stripes from neck to tip of tail. Head light-brown or olive above lips and area in front of and behind eye yellowish.

Distribution : Throughout mainland India.

Conservation status : Abundant.

26. **Argyrogena fasciolata** (Shaw)
(Banded Racer)

1758. *Coluber fasciolatus* Shaw (based on Russell, 1760 : 26, pl. 21).

2004. *Argyrogena fasciolata*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 124.

Habit and habitat: Diurnal and found in rodent burrows, rock piles and heavy brush. Feeds on insects, frogs, field mice, and metad rats.

Diagnostic characters : It is small to medium-sized slender snake; body is fairly robust, elongated and cylindrical; head is moderately depressed; broadest between eye and neck. Upper jaw and snout strongly projecting. Light/dark brown in color; belly white or yellowish white.

Distribution : India : throughout most of the peninsular plains (from Baroda to Gwalior) to the Himalayas (south of Nepal); in the east to west Bengal south to Tirunelveli (except southeast coast).

Conservation status : Uncommon.

27. **Boiga trigonata** (Schneider)
(Common Cat Snake)

1758. *Coluber trigonata* Schneider, *Bechst. Transl. Lincep.*, 4 : 256, pl. 40, fig. 1.

2004. *Boiga trigonata*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 234.

Habit and habitat : It is a nocturnal snake; at rest, it coils into a ball rather than stretching the entire body. It is essentially an arboreal snake and prefers bushes and shrubs near the ground to high trees. They spend day light hours in a cool place in thatched roofs or under the bark of trees.

Diagnostic characters : It is a small to medium-sized snake. The head is triangular and flat, much wider than the neck. The neck is very thin and eyes are large with vertical pupil; tail very long. The scales are smooth. Body long; thin and laterally flattened. Light brown/tan with darker zigzag markings.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Conservation status : Abundant.

28. **Dendrelaphis tristis** (Daudin)
(Common Bronzeback Tree Snake)

1758. *Coluber tristis* Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept.*, 6 : 430.

2004. *Dendrelaphis tristis*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 158.

Habit and habitat : Diurnal, arboreal; inhabits low bushes, thorn trees. Feeds on frogs, garden lizards, geckos and small birds.

Diagnostic characters : It is a long, slender, smooth-scaled snake. Head distinctly broader than neck; snout bluntly rounded. Large eyes has round pupil. Tail very long, thin and wire-like. Vertebrae enlarge; ventrals and caudals laterally keeled. Bronze-brown or purplish-brown back with a dark-brown or black stripe on either side of body. Indistinct black streak behind eye.

Distribution : India : throughout most of peninsular India Gujarat downwards; east to Darjeeling.

Conservation status : Rare.

29. **Coelognathus helena** (Daudin)
(Common Trinket Snake)

1803. *Coluber helena* Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Rept.*, 6 : 277.

2004. *Coelognathus helena*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 100.

Habit and habitat : Active both during day and night. In summer, it is found in termite mounds, rock piles and crevices and in cooler months, it may be seen on leafy trees and bushes. Feeds on rats, mice, squirrel, but also takes lizards and frogs.

Diagnostic characters : It is a medium-sized; slender bodied snake. The head is elongate and well defined. The snout is small and rounded. Nostrils are large and eyes rather large with round pupil. Body is cylindrical and tail is long. Color is mostly tan or olive, and chocolate-brown with two black stripes on neck and light bands and /or checks on fore-body; hind body has two prominent dark-brown or black stripes that continue onto tail; belly pearl-white.

Distribution : Throughout India, up to Jammu and Kashmir (Poonch) in the north, to Manipur and the Naga hills in the Northeast.

Conservation status : Rare.

30. **Lycodon aulicus** (Linnaeus)
(Common Wolf Snake)

1754. *Coluber aulicus* Linnaeus, *Mos. Adolph. Frider*, I : 29.

2004. *Lycodon aulicus*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 174.

Habit and habitat : It is strictly a nocturnal snake. Found in caves, piles of stones, wells, hollow trees and often in houses. Feeds on geckos and skinks.

Diagnostic characters : It is a slender-bodied; smooth-scaled snake with a flattened head slightly

broader than neck; snout broad, projecting beyond lower jaw. Glossy grey, light/dark-brown or black above usually 10-20 narrow white or yellow bands that fork on sides of body.

Distribution : Throughout India (including Lakshdweep but not the Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

Conservation status : Common.

31. *Macropisthodon plumbicolor* (Cantor)
(Green Keel back Snake)

1839. *Tropidonotus plumbicolor* Cantor, Proc. zool. Soc. London : 54 (type be, Malwa, Saugar).

2004. *Macropisthodon plumbicolor*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 216.

Habit and habitat : Nocturnal and crepuscular. Found in grass and low vegetation. Prefers toad though frogs and rats are also taken.

Diagnostic characters : A stout bodied snake; scales on body strongly keeled. Large eyes has round pupil. Bright or dull green over all sometimes with faint irregular black bands.

Distribution : India : Whole of the mainland except the east coast, Ganges valley and the extreme north-west. Common in parts of Maharashtra.

Conservation status : Uncommon.

32. *Oligodon arnensis* (Shaw)
(Common Kukri Snake)

1801. *Coluber arnensis* Shaw, *Gen Zool.*, iii : 526.

2004. *Oligodon arnensis*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 144.

Habit and habitat : Nocturnal and crepuscular. Found in termite mounds, caves, crevices, tree holes and old houses. Young feed on insects and their larvae, spiders and gecko eggs; adult eat reptile eggs, geckos, skinks and small mice.

Diagnostic characters : A small snake with a short, smooth and even sized cylindrical body. Head slightly or not broader than neck with typical shaped marks. Eyes are moderate with large rounded pupil. Short tail has pointed tip. Brown back with 10-20 distinct black or dark-brown bands and three ‘^’ shaped marks of the same color on head.

Distribution : Throughout India (except the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and possibly the extreme Northeast).

Conservation status : Uncommon.

33. *Ptyas mucosa* (Linnaeus)
(Indian Rat Snake)

1758. *Coluber mucous* Linnaeus, *Mus. Ad. Frid*, 1 : 37.

2004. *Ptyas mucosa*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 114.

Habit and habitat : A very fast, alert, active, diurnal hunter which can climb well. It has a wide range of habitats-coastal, arid, wet, mountainous, open fields as well as forests. Rat holes and termite mounds are preferred dwellings. Feeds on frogs, toads, lizards, birds, rats, bats, snakes and in one case it also shows cannibalism.

Diagnostic characters : Rat snakes are large, streamlined, with shiny scales. Dorsal rows are keeled. Thin neck and large eyes has round pupil. Head is depressed. The snout is short and blunt. Tail is short, somewhat compressed basally. Varies greatly in color; pale- yellow, olive, brown, grey and black. Body lightly or strongly marked with black; markings usually distinct on tail. Lip scales usually separated by vertical black lines.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Conservation status : Very Common.

34. *Xenochrophis piscator* (Schneider)
(Common Water Snake)

1799. *Hydras piscator*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph*; i : 247.

2004. *Xenochrophis piscator*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 192.

Habit and habitat : Active by day and night. Found in and around fresh water bodies and paddy fields and hunt along the edges of ponds and rice-fields. Young feed on frog eggs, tadpoles, and water insects; older snakes eat fish, frogs, occasionally rodents and birds.

Diagnostic characters : A medium-sized snake with a stout heavy body, a pointed head and a rather long tail. The scales are strongly keeled and over all. Eyes has round pupil. Two bold black streaks-one below, the other from eye to angle of mouth. Glossy olive-green, olive-brown, yellow, brown, gray or black, usually with a checkered body pattern.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Conservation status : Very Common.

Family ELAPIDAE

35. *Bungarus caeruleus* (Schneider)
(Common Krait)

1801. *Pseudo boa caeruleus* Schneider, *Hist. amphib.* ii : 284.

2004. *Bungarus caeruleus*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 290.

Habit and habitat : Nocturnal; alert and active at night. Often found in farms and gardens near water. Termite mounds, rodent's burrows, piles of brick and

rubble are other places to encounter. Feeds mainly on snakes even other kraits, sometimes rodents, lizards and frogs are also taken.

Diagnostic characters : It is a smooth-scaled snake; head slightly broader than neck; eye entirely black. Glossy black pale faded bluish-gray or dark-brownish-black above (often with blue iridescence) with narrow (sometimes paired) white bands that continue to pointed tip of short tail. Bands usually absent on fore body or they are replaced by white vertebral spots. Scales of the vertebral line six-sided, and much larger than adjacent scales.

Distribution : Most of the mainland India up to 1700 m, uncommon where the Banded Krait occurs. Probably absent in the Northeast above Assam.

Conservation status : Abundant.

36. *Bungarus fasciatus* (Schneider)
(Banded Krait)

1801. *Pseudoboa fasciata*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph. II*, p. 238.
2004. *Bungarus fasciatus*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 288.

Habit and habitat : Nocturnal; lives in termite mounds and rodents burrows close to water. Prefers open plains country, but also found up in lower hill country. Feeds mainly snakes (even common kraits), snake eggs, skink, rats and sometimes fishes.

Diagnostic characters : It is a smooth-scaled snake; head slightly broader than neck; eye entirely black; short tail has blunt, rounded tip. Body and tail triangular in cross-section; vertebral ridge prominent. Equally spaced, wide yellow/pale-brown/white and black bands. Scales of the vertebral line six-sided and much larger than adjacent scales.

Distribution : India : West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam upwards to Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, northern Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Conservation status : Uncommon.

37. *Naja naja* (Linnaeus)
(Spectacled Cobra)

1758. *Coluber naja* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*: 221.
2004. *Naja naja*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 304.

Habit and habitat : Active by day and night. Seen in fields, near streams, rock piles, trees, granaries and grain shops. Often lives in rat holes or termite mounds. Feeds on rodents, toads, frogs, birds and snakes.

Diagnostic characters : It is a snake with smooth, glossy scales. Head is broad. Color, pattern and hood

mark variable; hood mark sometimes absent. Shades of brown, yellow, gray or black, often with a speckled, sometimes banded pattern; the spectacled marking on hood usually makes identification easy.

Distribution : Throughout mainland India (excluding the Northeast).

Conservation status : Common.

Family VIPERIDAE

38. *Daboia russelii* (Shaw)
(Russell's viper)

1797. *Coluber russelii* Shaw, *Nat. Misc.*, 8 : pl. 291.
2004. *Daboia russelii*, Whitaker & Captain, *Snakes of India*, p. 332.

Habit and habitat : Usually nocturnal; found in open grassy area, scrub jungle, rocky hillocks, forest edges hillocks, dense thorny hedgerows. Feeds on rodents, including the Indian Gerbil.

Diagnostic characters : It is a stout bodied snake with strongly keeled scales. Triangular head; broader than neck; scales on upper surface of head small; nostril very large. Eye has vertical pupil. Tail short and thin. Brown or yellowish-brown with three longitudinal series of prominent large brown or black oval or round spots forming a chain-like pattern.

Distribution : Throughout India.

Status : Uncommon.

DISCUSSION

The herpetofauna of Naglok Region Jashpur is represented by 38 species/subspecies of reptiles and amphibians belonging to 15 families. The major orders of amphibians and reptiles represented in the fauna of Naglok region are :

1. Anura (Toads and Frogs)
2. Testudines (Tortoise and Turtles)
3. Squamata (Lizards, Geckos and Snakes)

Number of reptiles and amphibians observed in Naglok has been plotted in table 2nd which shows that the total number of observations is 572, the number of amphibian observations is 168 (29.36%), while the reptilian observation is 404 (70.64%). Among the amphibians Common Tree Frog (*Polypedates maculatus*, 1.92%) shows the least number of observations while Indian Bull Frog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*, 9.79%) shows the highest number of observations. Among the lizards the Indian Chamaeleon (*Chamaeleo zeylanicus*, 0.17%) shows the least while the Termite Hill gecko (*Hemidactylus triedrus*, 3.67%)

shows the highest number of observations. Among the snakes, Red Sand Boa (*Eryx johnii*, 0.34%), Green Vine Snake (*Ahaetulla nasuta*, 0.34%), Green Keelback (*Macropisthodon plumbicolor*, 0.34%), shows the least number of observations while the Striped Keelback (*Amphiesma stolatum*, 12.34%) shows the highest number of observations.

Three species of frogs and two species of toads inhabit the different area of the Naglok. These are *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, *Duttaphrynus stomaticus*, *Microhyla ornata*, *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*, and *Polypedates maculatus*.

One species of Testudines i.e. *Lissemys punctata punctata* inhabits the wetland area of Naglok.

The Gekkonids are represented by five species. These are *Hemidactylus brookii*, *Hemidactylus flaviviridis*, *Hemidactylus frenatus*, *Hemidactylus triedrus*, and *Hemidactylus maculatus*.

Among the lizards, there are three species commonly found and these are *Calotes versicolor*, *Sitana ponticeriana* and the *Psammodon blanfordianus*. And among the Varanidae, only one species, The Bengal Monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*) is commonly found in the area.

The family Scincidae is represented by two species viz. *Eutropis carinata* and *Lygosoma albopunctata*.

Three families of non-venomous snakes and two families of venomous snakes represent the Serpentes. The Typhlopids are small worm-like creatures and represents by one species, the Common Worm Snake *Ramphotyphlops braminus*.

The Boids are represented by three species; Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*), Common Sand Boa (*Gongylophis conicus*), and Red Sand Boa (*Eryx johnii*).

Colubrids are represented by eleven species; Green Vine Snake (*Ahaetulla nasuta*), Striped Keelback

(*Amphiesma stolatum*), Banded Racer (*Argyrogena fasciolata*), Common Cat Snake (*Boiga trigonata*), Common Trinket Snake (*Coelognathus helena*), Bronzeback snake (*Dendrelaphis tristis*), Common Wolf Snake (*Lycodon aulicus*), Green Keel back (*Macropisthodon plumbicolor*), Banded Kukri (*Oligodon arnensis*), Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*), Chequered Keelback (*Xenochrophis piscator*).

Family Elapidae includes three species; Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*), Banded Krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*), and Common Cobra (*Naja naja*). Viperidae family represented by just one species; Russell's viper (*Daboia russelii*).

SUMMARY

The paper presents the information on herpetofauna of Naglok Region of Jashpur District of Chhattisgarh. Total 38 species/subspecies of reptiles and amphibians belonging to genera under 15 families are reported from Naglok region. All the species observed by the team of Snake Research Organization, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh from April 2002 to March 2006 are reported for the first time from the area. The systematic list of amphibians and reptiles observed in various localities and their density along with their status have also been incorporated.

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PLATE-I



Duttaphrynus melanostictus
Common Asian Toad



Hoplobatrachus tigerinus
Indian Bull Frog



Polypedates maculatus
Common Tree Frog



Lissemys punctata punctata
Indian Flap-shell Turtle



Hemidactylus triedrus
Termite-Hill Gecko



Sitana ponticeriana
Fan-throated Lizard

PLATE-II



Psammophilus blanfordanus
Blanford's Rock Agama



Mabuya carinata
Common Skink



Varanus bengalensis
Bengal Monitor



Python molurus Indian
Rock Python



Gongylophis conicus
Brown Sand Boa



Eryx johnii
Red Sand Boa

PLATE-III



Amphiesma stolatum
Striped Keelback



Argyrogena fasciolata
Banded Racer



Boiga trigonata
Common Cat Snake



Coelognathus helena
Common Trinket Snake



Lycodon aulicus
Common Wolf Snake



Macropisthodon plumbicolor
Green Keelback

PLATE-IV



Oligodon arnensis
Common Kukri



Ptyas mucosa
Indian Rat Snake



Xenochrophis piscator
Checkered Keelback



Bungarus caeruleus
Common Krait



Naja naja
Spectacled Cobra



Daboia russelii
Russell's Viper