

SHORT COMMUNICATION

NEW RECORD OF PSAMMODYNASTES  
PULVERULENTUS (BOIE) (1827) (REPTILIA : SER-  
PENTIS : COLUBRIDAE) FROM ORISSA

The species, *Psammodynastes pulverulentus* (Boie), popularly known as "Mock Viper", was described from specimens collected from Jeva. It is now known from throughout the Indo-Chinese subregion extending from the Eastern Himalayas, as far west as Nepal, to Southern China, and, South to Malay archipelago. In India, its distribution remained confined to Assam-hills. In any case, it was never before recorded from the southern side of the alluvial gangetic plains etc. Its availability in the dense forest of Simlipal Forest in Orissa is thus not only very interesting from the point of its zoogeographical distribution but also constitutes a new record and an extension of its range of distribution to the southern India.

The specimen which is a younger one, measures 275mm (standard length) and 60mm (tail length) (vs. 510mm and 90mm respectively), was caught from a jungle road, bordering a densely woody hillock, in front of and leading to Jenabil, Simlipal Forest Rest House on 9.10.85 at about 12.30 pm. Apparently the animal was basking in the sun and was very sluggish.

The specimen before us agrees well with the known account of the species as presented by Smith (1943 : 386-370, figs. 116 & 117) ; according to the same author (op. cit.) the number of temporal shield is 2+3 or rarely 2+2 ; our specimen belongs to rare group. The colour is dark-brown above with small black streaks on the dorsal side of back and with pink shade all over the body.

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## REFERENCE

SMITH M. A., 1943. *Faun. Hrit. India*, Reptilia and Amphibia. vol. 3. Serpentes, 368-370 pp.

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