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CHECKLIST OF THE BLIND SNAKES (TYPHLOPIDAE), PYTHONS AND BOAS (BOIDAE) OF INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Reptiles are ectothermic vertebrates which include the Crocodiles, Turtles, Lizards & Snakes. In India reptilian assemblage is represented by the orders Crocodylia, Testudines and Squamata. The snake fauna comprises of ten families, of these family Typhlopidae and Boidae are listed in the paper. Each species is supplemented with an exhaustive synonymy along with remarks pertaining to the rarity and status.

The studies on Indian Reptiles have been enriched with notable contributions by several workers both during the pre and post independent India. We will be failing in our duty if we do not cite the works notably by Das (1991, 1995, 2003), Murthy (1986, 1990, 1992) Sharama (1971 1976, 1977, 2003), Biswas (1965, 1977), and Sanyal (1991, 1993, 2006) to mention only a few in the unending list of the galaxy of workers in the recent times. However we owe our deep debt of gratitude to the pioneering herpetologists of British India who laid the foundation of Indian Herpetology, notably Boulenger (1890, 1893) Nelson Annandale (1876-1924) Wall (1909-1923) and M. A. Smith. (1875-1958). The contribution of Wallach (1999, 2003) Nassbaum (1980) and the book "Snake species of the world" dealing with extensive reference work compiled by Mc Diarmid, Campbell and T A. Toure (1999) contributed to our knowledge on Typhlopidae and Boidae. However the checklist presented herein will be a source of valuable information and help to the growing number of herpetological workers in India.

Phylum CHORDATA

Class REPTILIA

Order SQAMATA

Sub order SERPENTES

1 Family TYPHLOPIDAE

1 Genus *Grypotyphlops* Peters, 1881

1843. *Rhinotyphlops* Fitzinger, Syst, Rept p. 24.
 1844. *Onychocephalus* A.M.C Dumeril & Bibron, *Erp. Gen.* **6** : 272.
 1845. *Onychocephalus* Gray, 1845, Cat. Spec. Lizards collect Brit. Mus., p. 132.
 1868. *Letheobia*, Cope, *Proc. Acad, Nat, Sci Philadelphia*, **20** : 322.
 1881. *Grypotyphlops* Peters, Sitzungsber Ges. Naturforsch. Freunde Berlin; 69-71.

Type species : *Onychocephalus acutus* Dum & Bib. 1844–*Rhinotyphlops acutus* Dum & Bib (1844) by original designation.

1. *Grypotyphlops acutus* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1844)

1844. *Onychocephalus acutus*, Dumeril & Bibron, *Erp. Gen.*, **6** : 609 pp. (333).
 1845. *Typhlops russelli*, Gray, Cat, Spec. Lizards collect. *Brit. Mus.*, 289. pp. (132).
 1862. *Onychocephalus westermanni*, Liitken, Vidensk. Medd. Dansk, Naturhist. foren. **14** : 292-311 (306, pl. 1 fig 5).
 1864. *Onychocephalus acutus*, Gunther, Rept. Brit. India, 452 pp. (177, pl. i6 fig A).
 1865. *Typhlops excipens*, Jan in Jan & Sordelli, Icon Gen. Ophid 1, levr index to pl. 1 (fig. 5).
 1875. *Onychocephalus malabaricus*, Beddome in Gunther, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, London, 227.
 1881. *Grypotyphlops acutus*, Peters, [Schr. Ges. Naturforsch Freunde Berlin 70].
 1885. *Typhlops acutus*, Muller, Verh Naturforsch., Basel, **7**(3) : 674.
 1893. *Typhlops acutus*, Boulenger, Cat Snakes. *Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 56.
 1893. *Grypotyphlops acutus*, Boulenger, 1893, Cat Snakes. *Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 56.
 1903. *Typhlops psittacus*, Werner, *Zool. Anz.*, **26** : 246-253.
 1949. *Typhlops acuta*, Constable, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, **103** : 59-100.
 1967. *Typhlops actis*, Rajendran, Snakes our land, (2) : p. 2.
 1978. *Typhlina acutus*, Whitaker, Common Indian Snakes, pp. 108.
 1983. *Typhlops acuts*, Murthy, *Indian J. Zootomy*, **24** : 77.
 1994. *Rhinotyphlops acutus*, Wallach, *Bull. Inst, R. Sci. Nat Belgique*, **64** : 219.
 2003. *Grypotyphlops acutus*, Wallach, *Hamadryad*, **27**(2) : 226.
 2004. *Grypotyphlops acutus*, Whitaker & Captain Ashok. Snakes of India, The field guide pp. 490.

Common Name : Beaked Blind Snake.

Type(s) : Holotype MNHN lost as stated by Hahn (1980 : 49) Wallach (1994 : 214) designated UF 19902 as the Neotype.

Type locality : Unknown, Kanheri caves–West central India, elevation CA 180 m 19°14' N, 72°5' E based on the neotype designation by Wallach (1994 : 214).

Distribution : INDIA : Found south of Ganges basin & South of Rajasthan. Range extends west of Baroda & east to Kolkata.

Remarks : It is the largest Asian worm snake found only in India. W Peters established the genus *Grypotyphlops* with *Onychocephalus*. Dumeril & Bibron designated as the type species. Since the name is available, *Onychocephalus acutus* is returned to *Grypotyphlops* Peters. The species currently known as *Rhinotyphlops acutus* should now be referred as *Grypotyphlops acutus* (Dumeril & Bibron)–Welch (2003).

2. Genus *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843

1830. *Typhlina* Wagler, *Nat. Syst. Amph.*, **354** : 196.
 1843. *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, *Syst. Rept.*, **106** : 24.
 1843. *Pseudotyphlops* Fitzinger, *Syst. Rept.*, **106** : 24. Type species : *Typhlops polygrammicus* Schlegel (*Ramphotyphlops polygrammicus* (Schlegel, 1839)).
 1844. *Pilidion* A.M.C Dumeril & Bibron, *Erp. Gen.*, **6** : 247.
 1845. *Typhlinalis* Gray Cat. Spec. Lizards collect, *Brit. Mus.*, p. 134.
 1861. *Typhlira* Jan. *Arch Naturgesch*, **27** : 6.

Type Species : *Typhlops multilineatus* Schlegel, 1839 by original designation.

Remarks : The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature suppressed the name *Typhlina* Wagler, 1830 for the purposes of the law of priority and placed the generic name *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843, on the official list of Generic Name in the Zoology.

The genus represents a single species in India.

2. *Ramphotyphlops bramius* (Daudin, 1803)

1803. *Eryx braminus* Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Gen. Part. Rept.*, **7** : 279.
 1820. *Tortrix russelii*, Merrem, *Tent. Syst. Amph.*, **191** : 84.
 1829. *Typhlops braminus*, Cuvier, *Regne Animal*, 2d. ed. **2** : 73.
 1839. *Typhlops russeli*, Schlegel, (1837, 1844) *Abblid. Amph* p. 39.
 1845. *Argyrophis truncates*, Gray, *Cat. Spec. Lizard collect. Brit. Mus.*, p. 138.
 1845. *Argyrophis bramicus*, Gray, *Cat. Spec. Lizards collect. Brit. Mus.*, p. 138.
 1845. *Eryx bramicus*, Gray, *Cat. Spec Lizards collect. Brit. Mus.*, p. 138.
 1845. *Tortrix bramicus*, Gray, *Cat. Spec. Lizards collect, Brit. Mus.*, p. 279.
 1846. *Onychocephalus capensis.*, A. Smith *illustr. Zool. S. African*, *Rept.*, **3**(24) : pl. 51 (fig. 3) pl. 54 (figs. 9-16) one unnumbered page.
 1861. *Ophthalmidium tenue*, Hallo well, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* : 480-510.
 1863. *Typhlops incons picuus*, Jan, *Elenco Sist. Of idi*, p. 11.
 1863. *Typhlops accedens*, Jan, *Elenco sist ofidi*, p. 12.

1864. *Typhlops accedens*, Jan & Sordelli, Icon. Gen, Ophid, Liver. 3 (Index to pl. 4 fig. 15) pl. 5 (fig. 15).
1882. *Typhlops euproctus*, Boettger Zool. Anz **5** : 479.
1887. *Typhlops bramineus*, Meyer, Abh. Ber. K. Zool. Anthro, Ethno. Mus. Dresden : 8.
1893. *Tortrix russelli*, Boulenger, Cat Snakes, Brit. Mus., **1** : 16.
1893. *Typhlops russelli*, Boulenger, Cat snakes, Brit. Mus., **1** : 16.
1893. *Typhlops bramians*, Boulenger, Cat. Snakes, Brit. Mus., **1** : 76.
1896. Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus., **3** : 584.
1893. *Typhlops accedens*, Boulenger, **1** : Cat. Snakes, Brit. Mus., **1** : 17.
1906. *Typhlops limbrickii*, Annandale, Mem. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, **1** : 183-202 (193, pl. 9, figs. 3, 3a).
1906. *Typhlops braminus* var. *arnicola*, Annandale Mem. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, **1** : 192.
1909. *Typhlops braminus* var. *pallidus*, Wall J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., **19** : 609.
1909. *Typhlops microcephalus*, Werner, Jahr. Vereins Vater. Naturkd Württemberg **65** : 55-63 (60).
1910. *Glauconia braueri*, Sternfeld, Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin, **5** : 69.
1910. *Typhlops braueri*, Boulenger, Zool. Rec. Batr., 29.
1911. *Typhlopidae bramenis*, Roux, Zool Jahrd. Abt. Syst., **30** : 498.
1919. *Typhlops fletcheri*, Wall, J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., **26** : 556, pl, 1.
1930. *Typhlops braminus bramians*, Mertens, Abh. Senckeb Naturforsch. Ges. **42** : 149, 278.
1938. *Typhlops braminus*, Nakamura, Zool. Mag, Tokyo, **50** : 192.
1969. *Typhlops pseudosaurus*, Dryden & Taylor, 1969 Univ. Kansassci Bull., **48** : 279.
1974. *Typhlina bramina*, Mc Dowell, J Herpetol., **8** : 22.
1980. *Ramphotyphlops bramians*, Nussbaum, Herpetologica, **36** : 215.

Common name : Brahminy worm snake.

Type : Based on pl. 43 (Rondoo tabloo Pam) in Russell, 1796, Acct. Indian serp. 1 : 90 pp (48).

Type locality : Vizagapatnam.

Distribution : INDIA : Throughout India; introduced to many parts of the World.

3. Genus *Typhlops* Oppel, 1811

1810. (1811) *Typhlops* M. Oppel, Ann. Mus, Hist. Nat. Paris, **16** : 380.
1811. *Typhlops* Oppel, Ordn., Fam. Gan, Rept., **87** : 55.
1815. *Typhlops* Rafinesque, Analyse, Nat. (Herpetol sector) p. 78.
1820. *Typhlops*-Hem prich, Grundr Natargesch, p. 119.
1831. *Typhlops*-Bonaparte, Saggio Distrib Metod Anem, Vert., **49** : 73.
1843. *Aspidorhynchus* Fitzinger, Syst. Rept p. 24.
1844. *Ophthalmidion* Dumeril & Bibron.
1844. *Cathetorhinus* Dumeril & Bibron, Erp. Gen., **6** : 268.
1845. *Anilios* Gray, Cat. Spec. Lizards Collect. Brit. Mus. p. 135.
1845. *Argyrophis* Gray, Cat. Spec. Lizards collect. Brit. Mus, p. 36.

1845. *Meditoria* Gray, Cat. Spec. Lizards collect Brit Mus 39.
 1846. *Typhlops*–Gistel. *Naturgesch. Thierreichs* 1-ix + 216 pp (xi).
 1860. *Diaphoro typhlops* Jan in Jan & Sordelli Icon. Gen. OPhid1. livr. 1 : (Index to pl. 5 figs. 6-7).
 1893. *Typhlops*–Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 7.
 1922. *Typhlops* M. A. Smith, *J. Fed Malay Staes Mus.*, **10** : 265.
 1957. *Ophthalmidium*–Loveridge. *KMus., Bull Comp. Zool.*, **117** : 240.

Type species : *Anguis lumbricalis* Linnaeus 1758 (*Typhlops lumbricalis*) (Linnaeus) 1758 [= *Typhlops lumbricalis* (Linnaeus)].

Remarks : Oppel (1811) credited the name *Typhlops* to J. G. Schneider (1801, *Hist. Amph. Jena*, 2 : 339) Who used the word *Typhlopes* to designate a subdivision of the genus *Anguis*. This was accepted by some authors as an indication that Schneider was the author of the name. Macdamid, et al (1999) compared Schneider's (1801) text to that of Oppel (1811) and found no similarity that would lead them to infer that Schneider wrote the section or that Oppel used Schneider text. At last they came to a conclusion that even though Oppel referred the name to Schneider infact Oppel is the author of *Typhlops*.

This genus *Typhlops* comprises of 16 Indian species.

3. *Typhlops andamanensis* Stoliczka, 1871

1871. *Typhlops andamanensis* Stolizka, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal.*, **40** : 421-445 pl. 25 (figs. 9-12).
 1893. *Typhlops andamaneasis*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 448.

Common name : Andaman worm snake.

Type (s) : Holotype NMW 15427.

Type locality : Andaman Islands.

Distribution : INDIA : Andaman.

Remarks : This is the only Indian species known based on Stolizka's text & drawing.

4. *Typhlops beddomii* Boulenger, 1890

1890. *Typhlops beddomii*, Boulenger, *Fauna Brit. India, Rept. Bate.*, 237.
 1893. *Typhlops beddomii*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes. Brit. Mus.*, **3** : 585.
 1923. *Typhlops beddomei*, Wall, *J. Bombay nat, Hist. Soc.*, **29** : 348.
 1943. *Typhlops beddomei*, M. A. Smith, *Fauna Brit. India, Rept. Amph*, **3** : 585.
 2003. *Typhlops beddomei*, Sharma, *Hand Book of Indian Snakes*. Pp. 20.

Common name : Beddom's worm snake.

Type Syntypes (13) & *Localites* : BMNI 1946, 1 10.69-72—from Anaimalai 2000-5000 ft. BMNH 1946, 1 11. 27-30 from kimedya Hills, Vizagapatnam district (formerly BMNH 1884, 5.

8 39-42) BMNH 1946, 1 : 11.93-95 & BMNH 1946, 1 10. 48 (formerly BMNH 1874. 4. 29. 247) from Travancore Hills 2500-3000 ft & MCZ R 22372 from Travancore Hills, 4000ft.

Type locality : Kimeddy Hills (Vizagapatnam), Anaimalai and Travancore Hills.

Distribution : INDIA : Hilly areas of Kerala, Anaimalai, Tinnevely, Vizagapatnam.

5. *Typhlops bothriorhynchus* Gunther, 1864

1864. *Typhlops bothriorhynchus* Gunther, Rept. Brit. Cat. India, 174 p. pl. 16fig. D.

1893. *Typhlops bothriorhynchus*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, 1 : 448.

1923. *Typhlops bothriorhynchus*, Wall, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 29 : 350.

1943. *Typhlops bothriorhynchus*, Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, 3 : 53.

1996. *Typhlops bothriorhynchus*, Das, *Biogeogr. Rept. South. Asia*, p. 50.

2003. *Typhlops bothriorhynchus*, Sharma, *Handbook of Snakes of India* pp. 19-20.

Common name : Assam worm snake.

Type : Holotype BMNH.

Type locality : "Pinang" given as Pinang Malaya in BMNH catalogue Wall 1923, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 29 : 345-346].

Distribution : INDIA : Assam; U.P.

Remarks : The specimen recorded from Hardwar is not traceable.

6. *Typhlops diardii* Schlegel, 1839

1839. *Typhlops diardi*, Schlegel, *Abbild. Amph.*, p. 39.

1839. *Typhlops mulleri*, Schlegel, *Abbild. Amph.*, pp. 39, pl. 32, figs. 25-28.

1844. *Typhlops nigroalbus*, Dumeril & Bibron, *Erp. Gen.*, 6 : 609.

1845. *Argyrophis horsfieldi*, Gray, *Cat. Spec. Lizards Collect Brit. Mus.*, p. 136.

1861. *Typhlops striolatus*, Peters, *Monatsber Preuss Acad. Wiss. Berlin* pp. 922-925.

1863. *Typhlops nigroalbus*, Jan, *Elenco Sist. Ofidi*, p. 12.

1863. *Typhlops schneideri*, Jan, *Elenco Sist. Ofidi*, p. 12.

1863. *Typhlops diardi*, Jan, *Elenco Sist. Ophidi*, p. 12.

1863. *Typhlops mulleri*, Jan, *Elenco Sist. Ophidi*, p. 12.

1864. *Typhlops diardi*, Jan & Sordelli, *Icon. Gen. Ophid*, 1, livr. 4.

1864. *Typhlops mulleri*, Jan & Sordelli, *Icon. Gen. Ophid*, 1, livr. 4.

1864. *Typhlops horsfieldi*, Gunther, *Rept. Brit. India*, p. 173, pl. 16.

1865. *Typhlops schneideri*, Jan & Sordelli, *Icon. Gen. Ophid*, 1 livr. 9.

1867. *Typhlops diardii*, Schneider, *Reise Oster Fregatte Novara*, p. 55.

1872. *Typhlops barmanus*, Stoliczka, *Proc. Asiatic Soc. Bengal* 143-147.

1893. *Typhlops diardi*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 448.
 1893. *Typhlops muelleri*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 448.
 1893. *Typhlops nigroalbus*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 448.
 1893. *Typhlops schneideri*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 448.
 1906. *Typhlops kapaladua*, Annandale *J. Proc. Soc. Bengal*, **1** : 208-214.
 1908. *Typhlops tephrosoma*, Wall *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **18** : 312-337.
 1909. *Typhlops diardi* var. *cinereus*, Wall, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **19** : 608-623.
 1918. *Typhlops labialis*, Waite, *Rec. S. Australian Mus.*, **1** : 1-34.
 1923. *Typhlops diardi diardi*, M. A. Smith, *J. nat. Soc. Siam*, **6** : 47-53.
 1923. *Typhlops diardi nigroalbus*, M. A. Smith, *J. nat. Hist. Soc.*, **6** : 47-53.
 1934. *Typhlops fusconotus*, Brongersoma, *Zool. Meded., Leiden*, **17** : 161-251.
 1934. *Typhlops diardi mulleri*, Brongersoma, *Zool. Meded. Leiden*, **17** : 161-251.
 1936. *Typhlops diardi*, Bourret, *Serp. Indochine*, **2** : 12.
 1936. *Typhlops diardi tephrosoma*, Bourret, *Serp. Indochine*, **2** : 13.
 1980. *Typhlops diardi diardi*, Hahn, *Das Tierreich*, **101** : 1-93.
 1980. *Typhlops diardi muelleri*, Hahn, *Das Tierreich*, **101** : 1-93.
 1995. *Typhlops diardii*, Das, *Hamadryad*, **22** : 18.

Common name : Diard's worm snake.

Type : Holotype. MNHN.

Type locality : Cochin China.

Distribution : INDIA : Assam; Meghalaya; Nagaland; WestBengal; Sikkim.

Elsewhere : Myanmar; Thailand; Laos; Cambodia; Vietnam; Sumatra; Bangkok; Borneo.

7. *Typhlops exiguas* Jan, 1864

1864. *Typhlops exiguas* Jan in Jan & Sordelli, *Icon. Gen. Ophid*, 1, livr. 3.
 1893. *Typhlops exiguas*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 31.
 1921. *Typhlops exiguas*, Werner, *Arch. Naturgesch.*, **87** : 332.

Common name : Jan's worm snake.

Type : Holotype : SMNH.

Type locality : Indes orientales [East India].

Distribution : INDIA : Belgaum (Karnataka).

8. *Typhlops jerdoni* Boulenger, 1890

1890. *Typhlops jerdoni* Boulenger, *Fauna Brit. India, Rept. Batr.*, 541 p. 238 pl. 34.
 1893. *Typhlops jerdoni*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 448.

1912. *Typhlops diverciceps*, Annandale, *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, **8** : 37-39.

1936. *Typhlops jerdonii*, Bourret, *Serp. Indocehene*, **2** : 505.

1980. *Typhlops jerdonii*, Hahn, *Das Tierreich*, **101** : 1-60.

Common name : Jerdon's worm snake.

Type : Syntypes (3) : BMNH.

Type locality : Khasi Hills (Meghalaya) ; Seven sisters (Assam).

Distribution : Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim; Darjeeling; Duars) ; North East India (Pashighat; Abor; Khasi Hills).

9. *Typhlops loveridgei* Constable, 1949

1949. *Typhlops loveridgei* Constable, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, **103** : 59-160.

Common name : Loveridge's worm snake.

Type : Holotype : MCZ R2283.

Type locality : Probably from North India & likely from Ambala & Kulu Valley (Mc Diarmid, Campbell & Toure 1999).

Distribution : Known only from Type specimen which is requires confirmation.

10. *Typhlops neszoelyi* Wallach, 1999

1999. *Typhlops neszoelyi* Wallach, Van, *Herpetologica*, **55**(2) : 185-191.

Type : Holotype FMNH 191889.

Type locality : Darjeeling (West Bengal).

Distribution : INDIA : West Bengal.

11. *Typhlops muelleri* (Schlegel, 1839)

1839. *Typhlops mulleri* Schlegel, *Abbid Amphib.*, p. 3, pl. 32, figs. 25-28.

1934. *Typhlops diardi mulleri*, Brongersoma, *Zool. Meded.*, Leiden, **17** : 193.

1943. *Typhlops diardi muelleri*, Smith, *Fauna Brit. India*, **3** : 52.

2003. *Typhlops muelleri*, Das, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **100**(2 & 3) : 484.

Type : Holotype : RMNH 3718.

Distribution : INDIA : (Das 2003).

Elsewhere : Myanmar; Thailand; Cambodia; Vietnam; West Malayasia; Pulu; Pinang; Singapore; Indonesia.

12. *Typhlops oatesii* Boulenger, 1890

1890. *Typhlops oatesii* Boulenger, *Fauna Brit. India, Rept. Batr.*, p. 218.

1893. *Typhlops oatesii* Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 448, pl. 23. 2 figs.

1923. *Typhlops oatesi*, Wall, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **29** : 350.

Common name : Oate's worm snake.

Type : Syntypes : BMNH

Type locality : "Table Island, Cocos group" Andaman.

Distribution : Previously it was known only from type specimen. Recently Murthy and Chakarapani, 1983 recorded it from Mayabander, Little Andaman.

13. *Typhlops oligolepis* Wall, 1909

1909. *Typhlops oligolepis* Wall, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **19** : 337-357.

Common name : Wall's worm snake.

Type : Holotype : BMNH.

Type locality : Nagri valley below Darjeeling at an altitude of about 5000 ft.

Distribution : INDIA : Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim & Darjeeling).

Remark : According to Smith it is closely allied to *Typhlops beddomii*.

14. *Typhlops pammeces* Gunther, 1864

1864. *Typhlops tenuis* Gunther, *Rept. Brit. India*, p. 176, pl. 16, fig. C.

1864. *Typhlops pammeces* Gunther, *Rept. Brit. India*, p. 444.

1898. *Typhlops braminus* var. *pammeces*, Boettger, *Kat. Rept. Samnl. Mus. Senckenb. Natuforsch Ges.*, **2** : 2.

1906. *Typhlops pssamophilus*, Annandale, *Mem. Asiatic. Bengal*, **1** : 193.

1943. *Typhlops psammeces*, M. A. Smith, *Fauna Brit. India Amph. Rept.*, **3** : 48.

1980. *Typhlops pammeces*, Hahn, *Das Tierreich.*, **101** : 1-93.

Common name : Gunther's worm snake.

Type : Holotype : BMNH.

Type locality : Madras.

Distribution : Southern India.

Remark : It is a rare snake, known only from few examples.

15. *Typhlops porrectus* Stoliczka, 1871

1871 *Typhlops porrectus* Stoliczka, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, **40** : 426.

1893. *Typhlops porrectus*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 19.

1910. *Typhlops mackinnoni*, Wall, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **19** : 805. Holotype. *Type locality* : Mussoorie, India.
(Listed in Synonymy by M. A. Smith *Fauna Brit. India, Rept. Amph.*, **3** : 46.)
1913. *Typhlops venningi*, Wall, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **22** : 515.
1949. *Typhlops porrecta*, Constable, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, **103** : 112.
1980. *Typhlops porrectus*, Hahn, *Das, Tierreich*, **101** : 67.

Common name : Slender worm snake.

Type : Syntypes (many).

Type locality : Northern & Eastern India.

Distribution : Whole of India.

Elsewhere : Sri Lanka; Pakistan; Northern Myanmar.

Remark : Smith 1943, *Fauna Brit. India, Rept. Amph.*, **3** : 46, reported the Type from Bengal as lost.

16. *Typhlops tenuicollis* (Peters), 1864

1864. *Onychocephalus (Ophthalmidian) tenuicollis* Peters, *Monatsber. Preuss. Acad. Wiss. Berlin* 272, figs. 2 a-c.
1871. *Typhlops theoboldianus* Soliczka *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, **40** : 429. Holotype ZSI 6888, according to Scalater 1891 *List Snakes Indian Museum*, 79. pp3. *Type locality* : In all probability from India. A Second Specimen Reported by Wall. 1923 from Samaguting, Assam (Now in Nagaland).
1876. *Typhlops thoboldianus*, Theobald, *Cat. Rept. Brit. India*, p. 123.
1876. *Typhlops tenuicollis*, Theobald, *Cat. Rept. Brit. India*, p. 123.
1893. *Typhlops theobaldianus*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 26.
1893. *Typhlops tenuicollis*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 37.

Common name : Slender-necked worm snake.

Type : Holotype : ZMB 5042.

Type locality : Himalayas.

Distribution : INDIA : Nagaland; Assam.

Remarks : Boulenger (*F. B. I.* 236) has placed in a section itself by stating nostril to be inferior. Peter's fig. indicates nostril to be lateral and in all respects the specimen totally agrees with *T. theoboldianus* and it is no surprise that Smith united them.

17. *Typhlops thurstoni* Boettger, 1890

1890. *Typhlops thurstoni* Boettger, *Ber. Senckenb. Naturforsch. Ges.*, 297.
1893. *Typhlops thurstonii*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 26.

1924. *Typhlops walli*, Procter, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (9)13 : 139.

1936. *Typhlops hurstonii*, Bourret, *Serp. Indochene*, 2 : 11.

2003. *Typhlops thurstoni*, Das, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 100 : 449.

Common name : Thurston's worm snake

Type : Holotype : Madras Museum.

Type locality : Nilgiri Hills.

Distribution : South India, Nilgiris, Trichur; Western India South of Goa from sea level above 4000 ft.

Remarks : A rare worm snake.

18. *Typhlops tindalli* Smith, 1943

1893. *Typhlops thurstonii* Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, 1 : 26.

1919. *Typhlops beddomei*, Wall, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 26 : 556.

1943. *Typhlops tindalli*, M. A. Smith, *Fauna Brit. India Rept. Amph.*, 3 : 53.

Common name : Tindall's worm snake.

Types : Syntypes 3. BMNH.

Type locality : Nilumbur, Malabar district. India.

Remarks : A rare snake, known only from three type specimens.

Family BOIDAE

This family includes Pythons and Boas, which are largest, heaviest among snakes. The family is represented by three genera *i.e.*, *Eryx*, *Gongylophis* and *Python* in India.

1 Genus *Eryx* Daudin, 1803

1803. *Eryx* Daudin, *Bull. Sci. Soc. Philomath Paris*, 3 : 188. Type species *Boa turcica*. This genus includes two species.

1. *Eryx johnii* (Russell, 1801)

1801. *Boa johnii* Russell, *Cont. Indian Serp.*, 2 : 18-20 pl. 16, 17.

1801. *Boa anguiformis* Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, 2 : 269.

1803. *Clothonia anguiformis* Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Gen. Part Rept.*, 7 : 285.

1837. [*Tortrix*] *eryx indicus* Schlegel, *Essia Physion. Serp.*, 2 : 17. Type (s) 'Muscede Paris' Type locality : Pondicherry, India.

1842. *Clothonia johnii* Gray, *Zool. Misc.*, (2) : 45.

1844. *Eryx johnii* Dumeril & Bibron, *Erp. Gen.*, 6 : 458.

1849. *Eryx maculates* Hallowell, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia*, 4 : 84.

1890. *Eryx johnii*, Boulenger, *Fauna Brit. India*, p. 248.
 1923. *Eryx jaculus* var. *johni*, Ingoldby, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **29** : 217.
 1993. *Eryx johnii*, Kluge, *Zool. J. Linn. Soc.*, **107** : 298.

Common name : Red sand boa.

Type : Syntypes 2.

Type locality : Tranquebar (Tanjore south east of TamilNadu, India).

Distribution : INDIA : Throughout drier zones of peninsula & north east.

Elsewhere : Pakistan & Nepal.

2. *Eryx whitakeri* Das, 1991

1991. *Eryx whitakeri* Das, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **88** : 93 figs 1-3.

Common name : Whitaker's sand boa.

Type : Holotype : Z. S. I. 24810.

Type locality : Mangalore, Karnataka, India.

Distribution : INDIA : Kerala; Karnataka; Goa; Western Maharashtra.

Remark : This species is endemic to India.

2. Genus *Gongylophis* Wagler, 1830

1830. *Gongylophis* Wagler, *Nat. Syst. Amph.*, p. 92.
 1989. *Neogongylophis* Tokar, *Vestn. Zool., Kiev.*, **4** : 54.

Type species “*Gongylophis conicus* Wagler” = *Gongylophis conicus* (Schneider) McDiarmid, Campbell, Toure' 1999.

This genus includes one species.

3. *Gongylophis conicus* (Schneider, 1801)

1801. *Boa conica* Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **2** : 268.
 1802. *Boa viperina*, Shaw, *Gen. Zool.*, **3(2)** : 313-615.
 1803. *Boa ornata*, Daudin *Hist. Nat. Gen. Part. Rept.*, **5** : 210.
 1830. *Eryx bengalensis*, Guerin, *Icon. Regne Animal Rept.* 23 pp.
 1837. [*Tortrix*] *Eryx bengalensis*, Schlegel, *Essia Physion. Serp.*, **2** : 17.
 1842. *Gongylophis conicus*, Wagler, *Zool. Misc.*, (2) : 45.
 1844. *Eryx conicus*, Dumeril & Bibron *Erp. Gen.*, **6** : 470.
 1869. *Eryx conicus* var. *laevis*, Peters *Monatsber Preuss. Acad. Wiss. Berlin* 436.
 1890. *Gongylophis conicus*, Boulenger, *Fauna Brit. India*, p. 247, fig. 75.

1893. *Eryx conicus*, Boulenger, Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus., **1** : 24.
 1951. *Eryx conicus brevis*, Deraniyagala, *Spolia Zeylan*, **26** : 147.
 1967. *Eryx conicus conicus*, Rajendran. Snakes of Our Land. (2) : 32.
 1971. *Eryx conicus gansi*, Rajendran *In* St. Xavier's College Magazine, (2) : 12.
 1989. *Gongylophis (Gongylophis) conicus*, Tokar, *Vestn. Zool. Kiev.*, **4** : 54.
 1993. *Eryx conicus*, Kluge, *Zool. J. Linn. Soc.*, **107** : 297.
 1994. *Eryx conicus*, Syndlar & Schleich, *Amph. Rept.*, **3** : 235.
 1995. *Gongylophis [(Gongylophis)]-Tokar*, *Trop. Zool.*, **8** : 353.

Common name : Common sand boa.

Type : Syntypes 3 : ZMB 1470; "Pedian Cotoo"

Type locality : "India orientali" ZMB 1470 is from Tronquebar (Madras) ; The description of "Pedian Cotoo" (Russell, 1796 : 5-6) was based on three specimen, two from Madras & one from Ganjam.

Distribution : INDIA : South of about 30° N latitude.

Elsewhere : Pakistan : Sri Lanka.

3. Genus *Python* Daudin, 1803

1803. *Python* Daudin, *Bull. Sci. Soc. Philomoth Paris*, (2)**3** : 187.
 1830. *Constrictor* Wagler, *Nat. Syst. Amph.*, p. 154.
 1830. *Engyrus* Wagler, *Nat. Syst. Amph.*, 166-167.
 1831. *Engyrus* Gray, *Synops. Rept. Animal Kingdom* (Appendix), p. 97.
 1842. *Engris* Gray, *Zool. Misc.*, (2) : 42.
 1842. *Heleionomus* Gray, *Zool. Misc.*, **2** : 42-43.
 1842. *Hortulia* Gray, *Zool. Misc.*, **2** : 43-44.
 1843. *Asterophis* Fitzinger, *Syst. Rept.* p. 24.
 1884. *Aspidoboa* Sauvage, *Bull. Soc. Philomoth Paris*, (7)**8** : 143.

Type species : Plates 24 (" Pedda Poda B") & 39 (" Bora") of P. Russell, 1796, *Cont. Indian Serp.* 2 : 53 (= *Coluber molurus* C. Linnaeus 1758)

This genus includes two species.

4. *Python molurus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

1758. *Coluber molurus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* 10th ed., **1** : 225.
 1801. *Boa ordinata*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **2** : 260.
 1801. *Boa cinerea*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **2** : 270.
 1801. *Boa castanea*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **2** : 272.

1801. *Boa albicans*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **2** : 274.
1801. *Boa orbiculata*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **2** : 276.
1802. *Boa boeformis*, Shaw, *Gen. Zool.*, **3**(2) : 511.
1803. *Python bora*, Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Gen. Part. Rept.*, **5** : 236.
1803. *Python tigris*, Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Gen., Part. Rept.*, **5** : 241.
1803. *Python tigris castaneas*, Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Gen. Part. Rept.*, **5** : 246.
1803. *Python tigris albicens*, Daudin, *en. Part Rept.*, **5** : 249.
1803. *Python ordinatus*, Daudin, *Hist. Nat. Gen. Part Rept.*, **5** : 252.
1820. *Python bivittatus*, Kuhl, *Beiter. Zool. Vergleich Anat.*, **1** : 94.
1820. *Python javanicus*, Kuhl, *Beitr. Zool. Vergleich Anat.*, **1** : 94.
1837. *Python bivittatus*, Schlegel, *Essai. Physion. Serp.*, **2** : 403.
1837. [*Boa Python*] *bivittatus*, Schlegel, *Essai. Physion. Serp.*, **2** : 606. pl. 15, figs. 1-4.
1842. *Python molurus*, Gray, *Zool. Misc.*, (**2**) : 44.
1842. *Python jamesonii*, Gray, *Zool. Misc.*, (**2**) : 44. Type (s) : Mus [uem] Univer [city] Edinb [urgh] Type locality : India.
1843. *Python (Asterophis) tigris*, Fitzinger, *Syst. Rept.* p. 24.
1893. *Python molurus*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 87.
1899. *Python molurus molurus*, Werner, *Zool.*, **40** : 24.
1899. *Python molurus var. ocellatus*, Werner, *Zool. Garten*, **40** : 24.
1899. *Python molurus var. intermedia*, Werner, *Zool Garten*, **40** : 24.
1899. *Python molurus var. sandaica*, Werner, *Zool. Garten*, **40** : 24.
1910. *Python bivittatus*, Werner, *Zool. Jahrb. Abt. Syst.*, **28** : 271.
1930. *Python molurus bivittatus*, Mertens, *Abh. Senckenb. Naturforsch Ges.*, **42** : 287.
1935. *Python molurus molurus*, Stull, *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, **40** : 393.
1935. *Python molurus bivittatus*, Stull, *Proc. Bosten Soc. Nat. Hist.*, **40** : 387-408.
1943. *Python molurus molurus*, M.A. Smith, *Fauna Brit. India Rept. Amph.*, **3** : 106.
1945. *Python molurus pimbura*, Deraniyagala, *Spolia Zeylan*, **24** : 105, pl. 13, fig. 1.
1969. *Python molurus molurus*, Stimson, *Das Tierreich*, **89** : 29.
1969. *Python molurus bivittatus*, Stimson, *Das Tierreich*, **89** : 30.
1970. *Python molurus var. molurus*, Deuve, *Mem. O.R.S.T.O.M.*, **39** : 65.
1970. *Python molurus var. bivittatus*, Deuve *Mem. O.R.S.T.O.M.*, **39** : 65.
1970. *Python molurus var. sandaica*, Deuve, *Mem. O.R.S.T.O.M.*, **39** : 65.
1993. *Python molurus*, Kluge, *Rec. Australian Mus. Suppl.*, **19** : 1-77.

Common name : Indian rock python.

Type : Holotype : NHRM.

Type locality : "Indis"

Distribution : Throughout India (except the Islands).

Elsewhere : Nepal; Bangladesh; Myanmar; S. China; Hainan; Hongkong; Thailand; Laos; Vietnam; Cambodia; West Malaysia; Indonesia.

Remarks : The species has become vulnerable due to decline of its population on account of overexploitation during the last 60 years.

5. *Python reticulatus* (Schneider) 1801

1801. *Boa reticulata* Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **2** : 264.
 1801. *Boa rhombeata*, Schneider, *Hist. Amph.*, **2** : 266.
 1802. *Boa phrygia*, Shaw, *Gen. Zool.*, **3(2)** : 348, pl. 97.
 1802. *Coluber javanicus*, Shaw, *Gen. Zool.*, **3(2)** : 441.
 1820. *Python schneideri*, Merrem, *Tent. Syst. Amph.*, p. 89.
 1842. *Python reticulatus*, Gray, *Zool. Misc.*, **(2)** : 44.
 1893. *Python reticulatus*, Boulenger, *Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.*, **1** : 448.
 1988. *Morelia reticulatus*, Welch, *Snakes Orient*, p. 24.
 1993. *Python reticulatus*, Kluge, *Rec. Australion Mus. Suppl.*, **19** : 852.

Common name : Reticulated python.

Type : Based on plate 62 (fig. 2) in Seba & pl. 79 (fig. 1) & pl. 80.

Type locality : Restricted to Java.

Distribution : INDIA : Nicobar Island; likely to be found in N. E. India (Whitaker & Ashoke Captain, 2004).

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