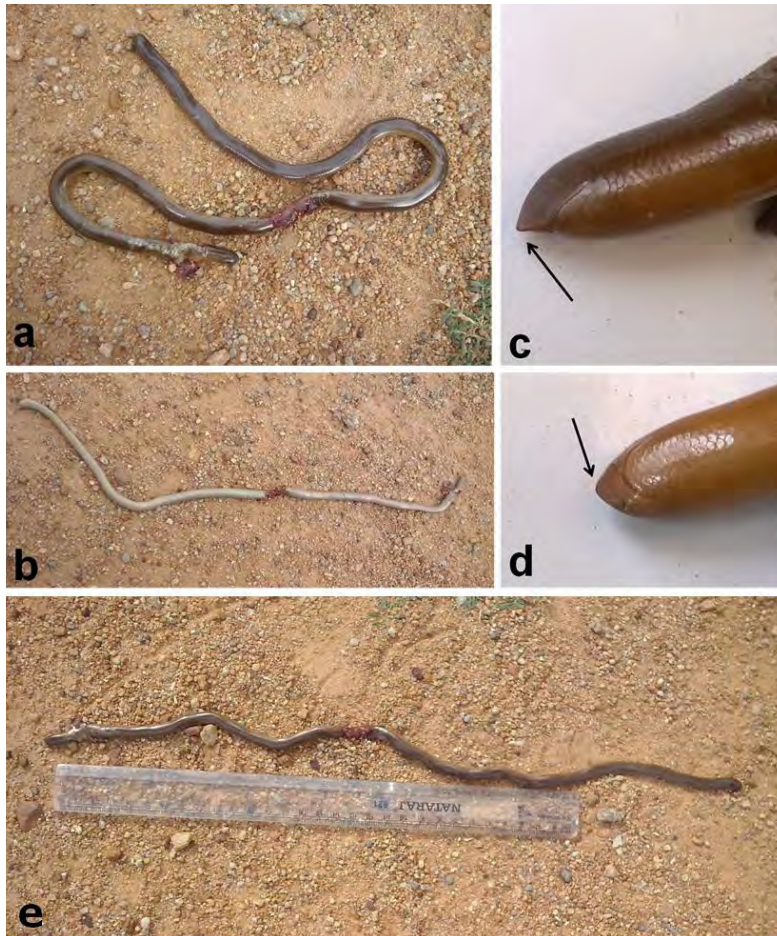


BEAKED WORM SNAKE

Record of *Grypotyphlops acutus* at Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana



IUCN Red List:
Least Concern
(Srinivasulu et al. 2013)

Grypotyphlops acutus: (a) & (b) - Showing dorsal, ventral side of a dead snake (road kill), (c) & (d) - Lateral, ventral side showing the pointed hook like anterior end, (e) - TBL 42 cm (Scale = 30 cm)

Reptilia
[Class of Reptiles]

Squamata
[Order of Scaled reptiles]

Typhlopidae
[Family of Blind snake]

Grypotyphlops acutus
[Beaked Worm Snake]

Species described by
Duméril & Bibron in 1844

Beaked Worm Snake *Grypotyphlops acutus* (Bibron & Duméril & Bibron 1844) of the family Typhlopidae is endemic to peninsular India. This species has been listed as Least Concern in IUCN Red List (Srinivasulu et al. 2013). In 1928 D'Abreu had collected three specimens at Nagpur. Hence, distribution of the species was known from South of Ganges Basin and South of Rajputana (Rajasthan), West of Baroda and East to Calcutta (Smith 1943). Later on this species reported from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal,



Bihar, Odisha (Murthy 1995). Literature evidence shows that records of this snake from the state of Gujarat (Daniel & Shull 1963; Sharma 1982; Gayen 1999) and reported length record of this species (Vyas et al. 2001). Nande et al. (2007) also recorded from Amaravati, Melghat, Maharashtra. An albino *G. acutus* for the first time reported from Dapoli, Maharashtra (Nivalkar et al. 2012). Apart from that little studies available on the taxon ecology. On recently Pyron & Wallach (2014) studied systematics of the blind snakes based morphology and molecular evidences.

After Murthy (1995) there were no record of this species from erstwhile Andhra Pradesh (Telangana was part of Andhra Pradesh). At present we were reporting for the first time from Telangana State. On 10 June 2013, we saw a dead snake (road kill) on the road near All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management office, Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTS), Rajenderanagar, Hyderabad 17.32613 N and 78.41009 E at 16.05hrs. After keen observation, it was identified as Beaked Worm Snake *G. acutus*. The size of the specimen measured with a scale, SVL= 37 cm, TL=5 cm and TBL= 42 cm. Digital image voucher, have catalogued the picture at Lee Kong Chian Museum of Natural History at the National University of Singapore as ZRC [IMG] 2.382.

Global Distribution:

India (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal)

PJTS Agricultural University campus consisting of varied habitat types of open scrub, rocky outcrops, mixed forests, wetlands and agricultural landscapes. It is located 20km away from the Hyderabad city. Land utilization pattern of the area includes agricultural land (30.46%) followed by natural forests (26.10%), water bodies/ tanks (24.70%) and urban built up area (19.33%) (Swamy et al. 2015). These habitats are well attracted to variety of herpetofauna. Only one sympatric species found namely Brahminy Worm Snake *Ramphotyphlops braminus*. A total of 57 other herpetofauanal species were recorded in the area (Swamy et al. 2015). The common snake species are found in the PJTS Agricultural University environs namely Indian Cobra *Naja naja*, Common Krait *Bungarus caeruleus*, Common Kukri Snake *Oligodon arnensis*, Checkered Keelback *Xenochrophis piscator*, Oriental Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosus* and Russell's viper *Daboia resseli*.



References

- Daniel, J.C. & E.M. Shull (1963).** A list of the reptiles and amphibians of Surat, Dangs, South Gujarat. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc* 60: 737-743.
- Gayen, N.C. (1999).** A synopsis of the reptiles of Gujarat, western India. *Hamadryad* 24(1): 1-22.
- Murthy, T.S.N. (1995).** *Fauna of Chilka Lake, Wetland Ecosystem*. Series 1. Zoological Survey of India. 507-560.
- Pyron, R.A. & V. Wallach (2014).** Systematics of the blind snakes (Serpentes: Scolecophidia: Typhlopoidea) based on molecular and morphological evidence. *Zootaxa* 3829 (1): 001-081.
- Sharma, R.C. (1982).** Taxonomic and ecological studies on the reptiles of Gujarat. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India* 80: 85-108.
- Smith, M.A. (1943).** *The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma: Reptilia and Amphibia*, Vol. III-Serpentes. Taylor and Francis Limited, London, xii + 1583 pp.
- Swamy, K., B. Reddy, V. Hanumatha Rao, R. Surender, B. Laxmi Narayana, S. Kumar, B. Naresh & V.V. Rao. (2015).** Bio-diversity at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University and surrounding environments. The 2nd Int. Conf on Bio-resources and stress management. 7-10th June 2015 at PJTSAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, India. 160 pp.
- Srinivasulu, B., C. Srinivasulu, S.P. Vijayakumar, S.R. Ganesan & M. Madala. (2013).** *Grypotyphlops acutus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2013: e.T172598A1349131. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.20131.RLTS.T172598A1349131.en>. Downloaded on 18 February 2018.
- Vyas, R., K. Bhatt & I. Gadhvi. (2001).** Length record of the Beaked Worm Snake (*Rhinyotyphlops acutus*) and its distribution in Gujarat. *Zoos' Print Journal* 16(7): 549-550.
- Nande, R. & S. Deshmukh. (2007).** Snakes of Amravati district including Melghat, Maharashtra, with important records of the Indian Egg-Eater, Montane Trinket Snake and Indian Smooth Snake. *Zoos' Print Journal* 22(12): 2920-2924.
- Nivalkar, A., V. Patil, M. Patil & V. Shinde (2012).** Report of an albino Beaked worm-snake *Grypotyphlops acutus* (Duméril & Bibron 1844). *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc* 109(3): 141-142.

Acknowledgement: We thank to ICAR for providing necessary facilities; AINP on VPM, PJTSAU, Telangana. We sincerely thank Mr. G. Babu Rao (Research fellow, SACON) and Mr. A. Kalaimani (Herpetologist, AVC College, Tamil Nadu) for species identification. We are grateful to an anonymous referee for improving the manuscript. BLN special thanks to Mr. Kelvin Lim. Lim Kok Peng Kelvin (Lee Kong Chian Museum of Natural History, National University, Singapore) for providing species digital image voucher ZRC (IMG).

B. Laxmi Narayana¹, P. Venkateshwarlu², K. Swamy³, G. Surender⁴, R. Sravan Kumar⁵ & V. Vasudeva Rao⁶

¹⁻⁶All India Network project on Vertebrate Pest Management, Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana 500030, India.
Emails: ¹narayana.laxmi8@gmail.com (Corresponding author), ²sadavir9@gmail.com, ³rithvi.swamy@gmail.com, ⁴suri.wildlife2009@gmail.com, ⁵raghusravankumar@gmail.com & ⁶vasuvaidyla@gmail.com

Citation: Narayana, B.L., P. Venkateshwarlu, K. Swamy, G. Surender, R. Sravan Kumar & V. Vasudeva Rao (2018). Beaked Worm Snake: Record of *Grypotyphlops acutus* at Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana. *Reptile Rap*#182. In: *Zoo's Print* 33(3): 12-14