



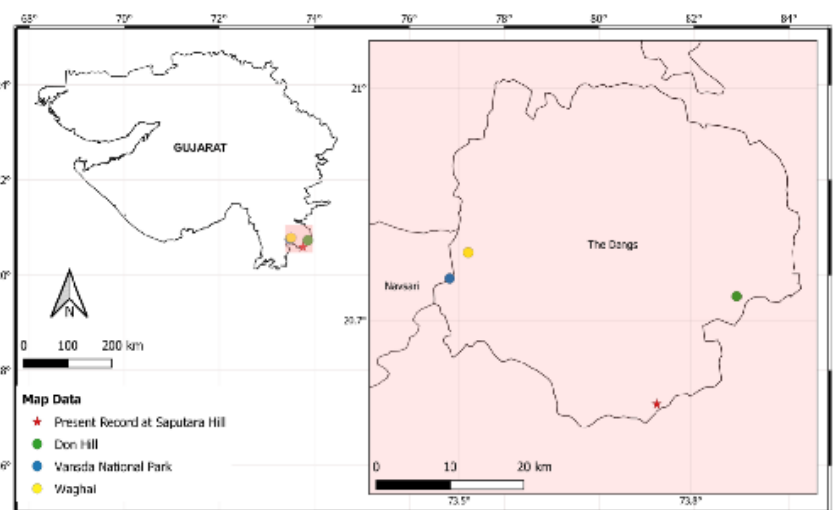
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Additional record of Travancore Wolf Snake from Gujarat Western Ghats, India

The Travancore Wolf Snake *Lycodon travancoricus* (Beddome, 1870) is a nocturnal species of colubrid snake endemic to the hills of peninsular India, especially the Western Ghats and parts of the Eastern Ghats (Whitaker & Captain 2004; Ganesh et al. 2020). This terrestrial to semi-arboreal species is found in tropical wet evergreen forest areas and looks very similar to many other wolf snakes occurring here, especially the most widespread Common Wolf Snake *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus, 1758). *Lycodon travancoricus* was first reported in Gujarat by Sharma & Jani (2015) from Vansda National Park (VNP), Navsari (based on photographic documents). Later on, the species was reported from Dangs by Patel et al. (2019) from Gujarat State. This



Lycodon travancoricus from Saputara Hill, Dang District, Gujarat. © Bhargav Parmar.



New location of *Lycodon travancoricus* (Red Star) from Saputara Hill, Dang District, Gujarat.



article is an additional report of the species from Gujarat. On the 20 July 2019, an adult *L. travancoricus* was sighted at the side of the road at night on Gujarat State Highway 174 (20.5915 N, 73.7560 E, 730 m), Saputara Hill, Dang District, Gujarat. The snake didn't bite during handling (Whitaker & Captain 2004).

Description of the live uncollected specimen: total length 398 mm; tail length 76 mm (Male). Head elongate; depressed laterally where the eyes are placed; snout broad; convex laterally; compressed upwards; projected beyond the lower jaw; rostral broad; curvature; notched ventrally; appeared from above; large flanked nostrils; dark large eyes; bigger than internasals; round pupil; loreal elongated; in contact with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd supralabials ventrally; preocular prolong to dorsal surface of head; in contact with frontal; frontal subtriangular; smaller than parietal; supraocular not in contact with prefrontal; nasal plate divided; subequal; in contact with the 1st supralabial ventrally; 1st supralabial subtriangular, 1st postocular rich to upper surface of the head; 2nd postocular on the right side in contact with the 5th supralabial and temporal scale ventrally; on the left side in contact with 5th and 6th supralabials ventrally; mental broad; triangular; among 10 infralabials 1st to 5th touch with the anterior chin shield; 5th (half) and 6th touch with the posterior chin shield; 1st higher; 6th largest; neck distinct; dorsal scales rows smooth; with apical pits; ventrals angulated laterally.

A loreal (on right side loreal in contact with the ocular; in broad contact with prefrontal; ventrally in contact with 1st, 2nd and 3rd

supralabials); supralabials 9, 4th and 5th in contact with the eye on the left side, 3rd to 5th in contact with the eye on the right side; 2 preoculars (2; find) (Smith 1943) on the left side, 1st (upper) preocular large than 2nd (lower), in contact with the prefrontal anteriorly; supraocular, frontal & prefrontal dorsally; ventrally in contact with loreal & 2nd preocular; 2nd preocular small; square-shaped, in contact with the loreal anteriorly and the 3rd supralabial ventrally, 1 preocular (2; find) (Smith 1943) on right side; anterior temporal scales 3–1 (2 or 3; find) (Smith 1943); posterior temporal scales 3. Purplish-brown shiny body; less dark laterally as compared to dorsal side; faded yellow crossbar on the dorsal body; disappeared posteriorly, base off white, supralabials light brown to off white (1st & 2nd are darker), frond chine speckled with dark brown color.

Earlier from Gujarat *Lycodon travancoricus* has been reported from Navsari District (VNP), Waghai and near Don Hill which is situated in Dangs District (Sharma & Jani 2015; Patel et al. 2019). Current findings show the existence of *Lycodon travancoricus* in Saputara Hills, Dang District, Gujarat.

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Bhargav Parmar¹, Prashant Vaghela², Ronak Patel³ & Manish Patel⁴

¹⁻⁴ Nature Saving Foundation, C-106 Pushpak Township, Refinery Road, Undera, Vadodara, Gujarat 391330, India. Email: ¹parambhargav@gmail.com (corresponding author)

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