

LINED SUPPLE SKINK

Notes on *Lygosoma lineata* from Rajkot City, Gujarat, India



Lined Supple Skink from Rajkot City in Gujarat

IUCN Red List:
Least Concern
(Srinivasulu &
Srinivasulu 2013)

Reptilia
[Class of Reptiles]

Squamata
[Order of scaled reptiles]

Scincidae
[Family of skinks]

Lygosoma lineata
[Lined Supple Skink]

Species described by
Gray in 1839

Reptiles are represented by 10,793 species worldwide (Uetz et al. 2018) of which 518 are found in India (Aengals et al. 2011). Of these 202 are lizards, apart from 75 species of Scincidae (Uetz et al. 2018). From Gujarat state 12 species of Scincidae are reported (Table 1).

Lined Supple Skink *Lygosoma lineata* was described by Gray in 1839 as *Chiamela lineata* and later allocated to the genus *Lygosoma* Gray, 1828 by Boulenger in 1887 (Smith 1935) and assessed as Least Concern. This lizard can be found in a variety of habitats including hilly areas, coastal forests, mix deciduous forest, grassland patches, scrublands, agriculture fields, gardens, and among large boulders (Srinivasulu & Srinivasulu 2013; Vyas 2014). This animal actively forages near termite mounds during cooler parts of the day. This lizard mostly shelters itself beneath rocks, woody material, or within leaf litter (Srinivasulu & Srinivasulu 2013). Lined Supple Skink is endemic to India. The species is distributed in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh,



Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal in India (Vyas 2014). In Gujarat, this species was recorded from Rajkot, Velavader, Bhavnager, Kalali, Kevadia, Samot, Ambli, Grimal, Naomiboha (Vyas 2014), and Girnar WS (Srinivasulu & Srinivasulu 2013).

Rajkot is an important urban centre located in the centre of the Saurashtra region in Gujarat. The rapid industrial development and agriculture production coupled with a rise in population over the past decade have contributed to the large-scale increase in traffic in the city. The percentage of the industrial area to that of the total area and developed area are found to be 20% and 22.28%, respectively. Rajkot has a semi-arid climate with very hot and dry summer, wet monsoon,

Global Distribution :

India (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal (Vyas 2014)

Table 1. List of Scincidae recorded from Gujarat State, India

	Scientific name	Common name	Distribution in Gujarat	IUCN status
1	<i>Ablepharus grayanus</i> (Stoliczka, 1872)	Minor Snake-eyed Skink	Kutch (Alfred 2000) & Jassore WS, northern Gujarat (Vyas 2011a)	NA
2	<i>Novoeumeces schneideri</i> (Daudin, 1802)	Gold Skink	Kutch (Stoliczka 1872)	LC
3	<i>Eurylepis taeniolatus</i> (Blyth, 1854)	Yellow-bellied Mole Skink	Kutch (Alfred 2000) & Jassore WS, northern Gujarat (Vyas 2011a)	NA
4	<i>Eutropis allapallensis</i> (Schmidt, 1926)	Allapalli Grass Skink	Purna WS (Vyas 2007) & Shoolpaneshwar WS (Vyas 2011b)	LC
5	<i>Eutropis carinata</i> (Schneider, 1801)	Keeled Indian Mabuya	Widespread (Das 2002)	LC
6	<i>Eutropis dissimilis</i> (Hallowell, 1857)	Striped Grass Skink	Dry parts of the state (Daniel 2002)	NA
7*	<i>Eutropis macularia</i> (Blyth, 1853)	Bronze Skink	Widespread (Das 2002)	NA
8	<i>Lygosoma albopunctata</i> (Gray, 1846)	White-spotted Supple Skink	Gir Forest in Saurashtra region, central and southern Gujarat (Vyas 2010)	NA
9	<i>Lygosoma guentheri</i> (Peters, 1879)	Günther's Supple Skink	Central and southern Gujarat (Vyas 2014)	LC
10	<i>Lygosoma lineata</i> (Gray, 1839)	Lined Supple Skink	Saurashtra, central and southern Gujarat (Vyas 2014)	LC
11	<i>Lygosoma punctate</i> (Gmelin, 1799)	Common Snake Skink	Widespread (Das 2002)	
12	<i>Ophiomorus raithmai</i> (Anderson & Leviton, 1966)	Three-fingered Sand-fish	Kutch (Alfred 2000) & Kathiawar (Khan & Papenfuss 2010)	LC
*This is a species complex in need of further taxonomic studies (Ganesh 2015). LC - Least Concern, NA - Data Not Available				

**Table 2. Details of Lined Supple Skink recorded from Rajkot City, Gujarat**

	Location	Year	Habitat	Remark	Rescued/ observed by [#]
1	Near Nanavati Chowk (22.3070 N & 70.7671 E)	2004	Plot	Adult	B. Trivedi
2	Near Nana Mava Main Road (22.2724 N & 70.7669 E)	2005	Plot in between residency	Subadult	R. Jadav
3	Behind Big Bazar (22.2791 N & 70.7752 E)	2005	Plot	Adult	B. Trivedi
4	Limbudiwadi Main Road (22.2941 N & 70.7795 E)	28 Nov 2006	Under construction	Sub-adult	R. Ardesana
5	Near Nana Mava Main Road (22.2724 N & 70.7669 E)	25 Apr 2008	Plot in between residency	Sub-adult	R. Jhala
6*	Patidar Chowk (22.2938 N & 70.7550 E)	09 May 2008	Front yard of home	Juvenile	J. Ardesana
7*	Patidar Chowk (22.2938 N & 70.7550 E)	09 May 2008	Front yard of home	Juvenile	R. Ardesana
*Two juvenile specimens were recorded at same time and location on 09 May 2008. [#] All specimen were not examined.					

and cold winter. The temperature ranges between 10°C and 44°C according to the season. The city is located on the banks of Aji and Nyari rivers (Bhadja & Vaghela 2013; Ardesana et al. 2017).

We found seven specimens of Lined Supple Skink in Rajkot City between 2004 and 2008 (Table 2). These specimens were identified with the help of literature (Boulenger 1890; Smith 1935).

The hitherto literature survey indicates the distribution of the species to be wide and scattered in peninsular India, with the most western distribution limit marked at Rajkot in Gujarat, the southern limit in Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu, and the northern limit in Bisarampur in Jharkhand (Vyas 2014). Recently, in October 2017, Lined Supple Skink was found in Karnavati Hotel (21.6278 N & 69.9475 E) in Kutiyana, Porbandar District, Gujarat. This place lies to the west of Rajkot and, therefore, it is possible that the species is distributed in the adjoining districts of Rajkot and Porbandar. In parts of its range, forest and grassland habitats are under threat due to expanding human settlements. Hence, surveys are needed to investigate the impact of the threats to the habitat on the populations of this species and to establish both the limits of its distribution and its occurrence within its known range.



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Ravi Ardesana¹, Bhavesh Trivedi², Rajan Jadav³, Rajdeep Jhala⁴, Pratik Joshi⁵, Milan Bharad⁶ & Jigar Ardesana⁷

^{1,7} 54, Gunjan-Vihar Society, Patidar Chowk, Sadhu Vaswani Road, Rajkot, Gujarat 360005, India. Emails:

¹ardesanaravi@gmail.com (Corresponding author), ⁷jigarardesana@gmail.com

² 'SHREE', 42, Malaviya Nagar, Gondal Road, Rajkot, Gujarat 360004, India. Email: bhaveshatrivedi@gmail.com

³ 'DATAR', Nana Mava Main Road, Rajkot, Gujarat 360005, India. Email: rdjadav@gmail.com

⁴ 'RAMNIVAS', 38/B Parnakuti Society, Rajkot, Gujarat 360001, India. Email: rajdeep.jhala@gmail.com

⁵ 'MADHVI', Raiya Gam, Opp. Old Gram Panchayat Office, Rajkot, Gujarat 360005, India. Email: taxxak@gmail.com

⁶ 'OM VARENYAM', Indian Park-2, Nr. Gulmohar Residency, Raiya Road, Rajkot, Gujarat 360005, India. Email: drmilanbharad@gmail.com

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