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## Roadkill sightings of Madurai Shieldtail and Palani Mountain Burrowing Snake in Kodaikanal Hills

Kodaikanal is situated on a plateau above the southern escarpment of the upper Palani Hills, an eastward spur of the Western Ghats on the western side of south India. On 29 August 2019, a dead uropeltid snake was sighted and identified as Madurai Shieldtail *Platyplectrurus madurensis* based on the morphological characters given by Smith (1943), Murthy (1990), and Whitaker & Captain (2004).



It was 17.8 cm in length. The next day, another uropeltid snake was sighted and identified as Palni Mountain Burrowing Snake *Teretrurus rhodogaster*. It was 16.2 cm in length. Both the snakes were sighted near



*Platyplectrurus madurensis* in Kodaikanal Hills, Tamil Nadu, India.



Kurinji Andavar Temple  
(10.242°N, 77.504°E, 1,963m)  
at Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu,  
India.

Both the uropeltids were  
found dead on the road and  
assumed to have been killed  
by vehicular traffic.

*Teretrurus rhodogaster*, listed  
as Least Concern, is endemic  
to the Western Ghats with  
restricted distribution (Smith  
1943; Bossuyt et al. 2004;  
Pyron et al. 2016).

It occurs at elevations  
of 1,350–1,900 m.

*Platyplectrurus madurensis*,  
listed as Endangered, is also  
endemic to southern India  
with restricted distribution  
(Smith 1943; Das 2002).

As both the uropeltid snakes  
are known only from a few  
records and affected by  
urbanization (Santhoshkumar  
et al. 2016), any information  
on its distribution would  
be useful for assessing  
their status. Hence these  
observations are placed here  
on record.



*Teretrurus rhodogaster* in Kodaikanal Hills, Tamil Nadu, India.

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