

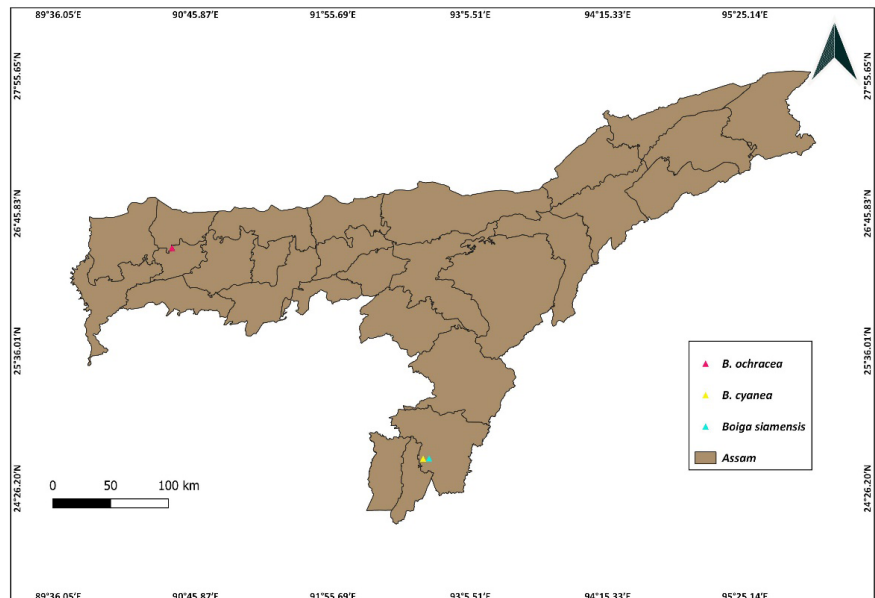


#218  
21 February 2022

## Locality record of three species *Boiga Fitzinger 1826* (Serpentes: Colubridae) in Assam, northeastern India

Nineteen species of cat snakes under the genus *Boiga* (Colubridae) have been reported from the Indian sub-continent and among them, *B. cyanea*, *B. gokool*, *B. multifasciata*, *B. multomaculata*, *B. siamensis*, *B. ochracea*, and *B. quincunciata* are found in northeastern states of India (Whitaker & Captain 2008; Aengals et al. 2018; Giri et al. 2019).

The present report describes the sighting of *B. ochracea*, *B. cyanea*, and *B. siamensis* from the western and southern parts of Assam. Eight species of snakes were reported from



**Sighting locations of *Boiga ochracea*, *Boiga cyanea*, and *Boiga siamensis* in Assam, India.**

the Bongaigaon municipality area (Nath et al. 2011). However, no species of the genus *Boiga* is reported so far from this place. Very limited studies on snakes have been reported from the Barak Valley districts of

Assam. One study reports 45 species of reptiles represented by 25 snake species and 23 species of amphibians from Barail Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam (Das et al. 2009). About 24 species of snakes have



**Tawny Cat Snake**  
*Boiga ochracea*  
encountered  
in Bongaigaon  
municipality area.



**Green Cat Snake**  
*Boiga cyanea* found  
in Rosekandy Tea  
Estate of Cachar  
District.



**Thai Cat Snake**  
*Boiga siamensis* in  
the vicinity of Assam  
University Campus,  
Silchar.



been recorded from the Assam University Silchar Campus including the cat snakes like *B. ochracea* and *B. gokool* (Dutta et al. 2008). The species were identified by consulting the field guides on Indian snakes (Whitaker & Captain 2008; Ahmed et al. 2009).

On 21 December 2017 at 1130 h, we recorded Tawny Cat Snake *Boiga ochracea* at the vicinity of Bhagheswari Hill and Birjhora Tea Garden (26.472N, 90.564E, elevation 63 m) of Bongaigaon District. The snake was rescued from a drain in the municipality area clogged with garbage (Image 1). It measured 1.5 m from head to tail and later it was released in a nearby natural habitat.

Sighting locations of *Boiga ochracea*, *Boiga cyanea*, and *Boiga siamensis* in Assam, India.

On 15 July 2018, at 1900 h, we encountered a Green Cat Snake *Boiga cyanea* crossing a road in Rosekandy Tea Estate (24.687N, 92.692E, elevation 55 m). It measured 2.40 m in length.

On 16 April 2020 at around 1600 h after a heavy storm, a Thai Cat Snake *Boiga siamensis* was rescued (elevation 30 m) from a shop in Irongmara Village (24.689N, 92.742E) adjacent to the Assam University,

Silchar. It measured 2.1 m in length. Later, the snake was released in the forested area inside the Assam University Campus which is contiguous to the Innerline Reserve Forest of the district.

In Assam *B. ochracea* has been recorded from Goalpara, Sibsagar, and Cachar (Sclater 1891a; Wall 1924; Smith 1943; Whitaker & Captain 2008; Das et al. 2010). *B. siamensis* has been recorded from Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Panbari Reserve Forest, Dibruigarh, Cachar, and Naharkatiya (Sclater 1891a,b; Wall 1910a,b; Smith 1943; Kroon 1973; Das et al. 2010). Observational records on *B. cyanea* in Assam is reported from Barail Wildlife Sanctuary, Panbari Reserve Forest, Rani Reserve Forest in the districts of Cachar, Golaghat, Kamrup, respectively, and also from Bongaigaon of Assam (Sclater 1891; Wall 1924; Smith 1943; Das 2008; Das et al. 2010).

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**Citation:** Sarkar, S., M. Dey & P. Debb (2022). Locality record of three species *Boiga* Fitzinger 1826 (Serpentes: Colubridae) in Assam, northeastern India. *Reptile Rap* #218, In: *Zoo's Print* 37(1): 27–30.