

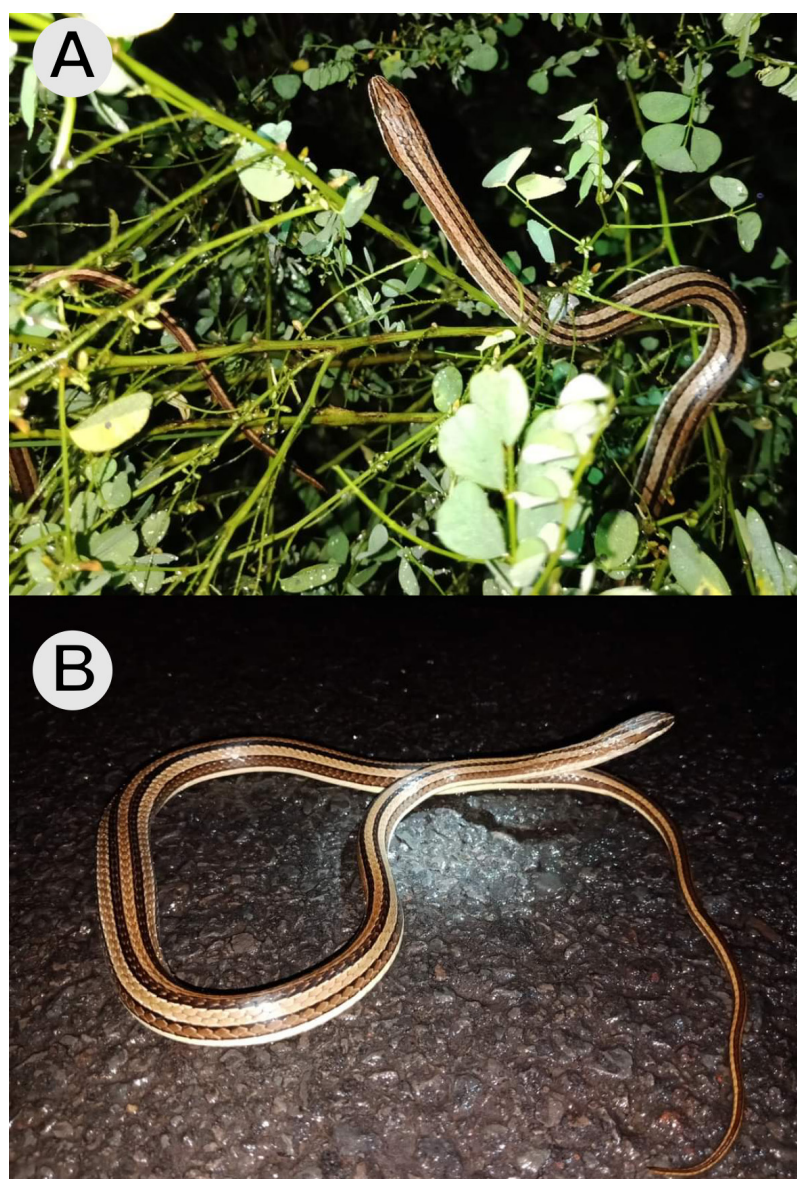


#225
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Additional photographic record of Indo-Chinese Sand Snake in Baluran National Park, Java

Java is home to a wide variety of cryptic and endemic snake species, where snake discoveries began in the 19th century. Literature reveals that more than 100 species of snakes have been reported from Java (Uetz et al. 2022), and it is likely that further species are yet to be discovered.

Additionally, some known introduced snakes were reported in East Java (Hodges 1993). Nonetheless, there is a lack of surveying and monitoring of the populations to help with their conservation status, as well as confirmations of these dubious data, e.g., the presence of Eastern Russell's Viper and Indo-chinese Sand Snake (Kurniawan et al. 2021). Indo-Chinese Sand Snake is the only species of psammophiid snake found in Indochina.



Indo-Chinese Sand Snake *Psammophis indochinensis* Smith from Baluran National Park, East Java, Indonesia, displaying the surrounding vegetations (A), and after displacement to the trails (B). © A.T. Prasetya.



Intriguingly, there were also reports of this species in Indonesia, where it was seen in East Java and Bali regions (Kurniawan et al. 2021). Based on photographic evidence, we confirm the presence of *Psammophis indochinensis* in Baluran National Park, East Java.

Psammophis indochinensis Smith, also known as Indo-Chinese Sand Snake was found in Baluran National Park, Situbondo Regency, East Java Province, Indonesia (7.840 S, 114.437 E; WGS 84; 32 m elevation) in February 2021 by A.T. Prasetya. The individual was found among shrubs adjacent to the main road in the Bekol savannah, surrounded by *Acacia* sp., Poaceae, Fabaceae, and Asteraceae plants.

This is an additional record for the species in the province of East Java, as well as the third most recent confirmed report for Indonesia, as it was seen in Bali Barat National Park (Amarasinghe et al. 2021) and Buleleng Regency (Kurniawan et al. 2021) of Bali Province. Baluran National Park represents the westernmost population of this species in Java, about 222 km east of the nearest dubious records in Gresik of East Java (Mertens 1957). This species is primarily known from southeastern Asia, which means that this species has a highly disjunct distribution.

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