



#227
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Record of Collared Reed Snake at Nokrek National Park, Meghalaya, India



Calamaria pavimentata – whole body. © Sachin Ranade.

The repeated sightings of the Collared Reed Snake *Calamaria pavimentata* Duméril, Bibron & Duméril, 1854 at the Nokrek National Park (NNP) in Meghalaya State of India are reported in this short note.

NNP was visited during the April–May month of 2002,

2003, 2011, and 2015 for the nationwide vulture surveys by Bombay Natural History Society. During these surveys, a transect of 4 km from Daribokgrey towards the Nokrek peak (25.45 N & 90.32 E; 1,261.5 m) was undertaken on foot. The terrain of this area is hilly, dominated by

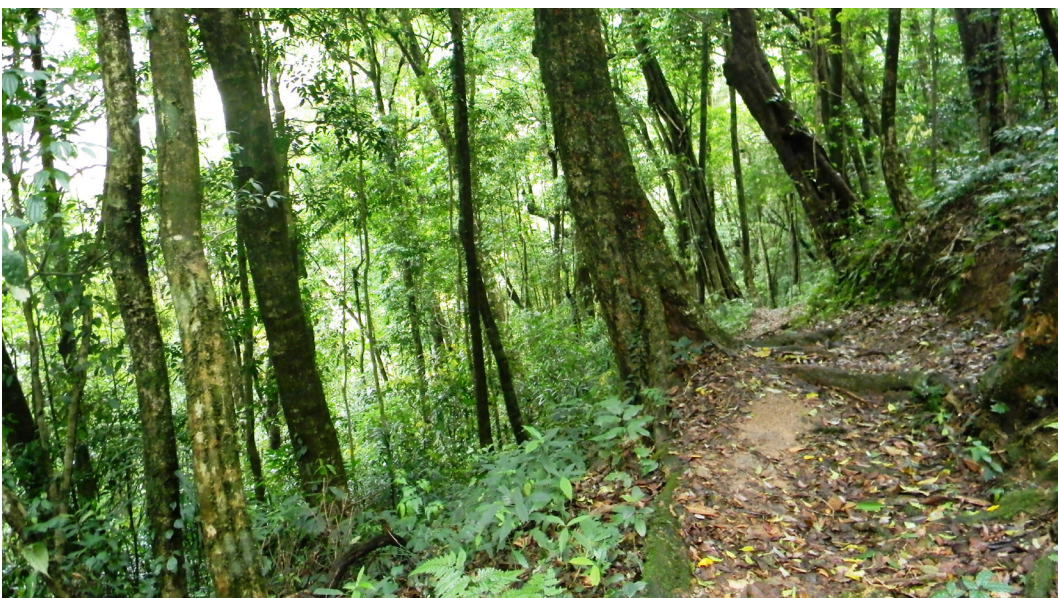
evergreen and semi-evergreen forest patches (Prabhu et al. 2010). During every visit, there was mist indicating the cool and humid air in the forest patches and hill slopes. The ground was largely covered by leaf litter. During the transects, interesting flora and fauna was photographed



Lateral view –
longitudinal stripes.
© Sachin Ranade.



Dorsal view
showing collar
mark. © Sachin
Ranade.



Habitat – a path in
the hill forest. ©
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opportunistically. The number of individuals of the Collared Reed Snake sighted were- two (2002), one (2003), one (2011), and one (2015).

The sighting time was between 0900 and 1200 h when the individuals were crossing the jungle path at a slow pace. On 26 April 2011, a scale was kept in the path to be taken by the snake and the snake obliged me by passing very close by the scale and that was photographed. In the low light, the snake appeared simply dark brown coloured, but in the photographs with flash its longitudinal dark bands and shiny scales are visible. The photographs show the distinct collar pattern that gave the snake its common name, the Collared Reed Snake. Inger & Marx (1965) had described variations in the colour pattern of the collar, where yellow and complete collar is common on mainland. The snake was not touched, handled or captured and hence there is no data on the scale count.

The species is well known from China, Japan, and southeastern Asia; but only a few of its records are from India, mentioning Assam and Mizoram states (Smith 1943; Inger & Marx 1965; Uetz et al. 2021). The habit and habitat of this snake species are least discussed. The species is known to lay eggs in August in Taiwan (Yang 2018). My observations provide the first photographic record and information about its presence in Meghalaya, India along with its preferred habitat.

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