



#235
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Sighting of Gray's Kukri Snake from Kohima District, Nagaland, India

Gray's Kukri Snake *Oligodon dorsalis* is a non-venomous colubrid snake found in India (Assam, Nagaland, and Mizoram), Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand (Uetz et al. 2023). Till date there are four reports of this species from Nagaland (Smith 1943; Mathew 1992; Ao et al. 2004; Dasgupta & Raha 2006). Dasgupta & Raha 2006 included this species based on an old collection from Chumukedima (then Samaguting) by Captain Butler in 1872. This species is a terrestrial species which is known to occur in mixed evergreen forests, secondary forests (Khan et al. 2021) and subtropical broad-leaved forests (Das & Palden 2000).

At 0811 h on 4 August 2021 a dead individual of *Oligodon dorsalis* was observed at



Individual of *Oligodon dorsalis* encountered as road kill. © Thejavitso Chase.

Phezhu, Jotsoma, Kohima District (25.6616N, 94.0753E, 1,660 m). The road kill was observed on a dirt road near human settlement.

This report is preceded by the report of Ao et al. (2004) in Kohima District, without specificity of the locality. Owing to the lack of research on herpetofauna

in Nagaland, there is no information regarding the population trends of this species. Moreover, the report of a species found in human habitat after 17 years suggests the lack of knowledge of reptiles in Kohima district. Therefore, comprehensive studies on reptiles along with awareness programs for conservation is required.



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Thejavitso Chase

SCVRMH, Tezpur University, Assam 784028, India.
Email: thejachase@gmail.com

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