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Record of Indian Spectacled Cobra predation on Bengal Monitor Lizard in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, India



Indian Spectacled Cobra predation on Bengal Monitor Lizard in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu, India.
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On 28 September 2022, we rescued an Indian Spectacled Cobra *Naja naja* (1.3 m total length) from the Vazithottam human settlement area of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu. While capturing the snake, we found that the snake was regurgitated and later we identified the regurgitated species was Bengal Monitor Lizard

Varanus bengalensis. Daniel (2002) mentioned that Indian Cobras feed primarily on rats, frogs, and toads, and occasionally consume birds, bird eggs, lizards, and other snakes, including other cobras. The past literature showed that King Cobras are predominant in the region, and it has been documented that they predate on



Monitor Lizards (Sy & Ong 2019). Considering the Indian Spectacled Cobra, the predation on the Bengal Monitor Lizard was reported in Gujarat (Vyas et al. 2022). The present and the past observation envisaged that Bengal Monitor Lizard is a noteworthy addition to the dietary spectrum of the Indian Spectacled Cobra.

References

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