



New locality record of the Calamaria Reed Snake in Agamalai Hills, Western Ghats, India

The Calamaria Reed Snake *Liopeltis calamaria* (Günther, 1858) is a rare snake recorded in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and India (Uetz et al. 2023).

In India, the species is found in the states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand (Bilaskar 2023). Northern Indian and



Calamaria Reed Snake *Liopeltis calamaria* in Kuravankudi, Agamalai.
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View of Agamalai, Theni. © Kalaimani.





Nepalese population is distinct from peninsular India and Sri Lanka (Amarasinghe et al. 2020).

During a trek to the Agamalai Hills on 13 August 2012 at around 1345 h, I came across a Calamaria Reed Snake in a pathway of Kuravankudi Village (10.1105 N, 77.4608 E; 900 m), Theni District, Tamil Nadu, India. This site is within the Theni Forest Division with mixed deciduous habitat. I only observed the snake without disturbing, took photographs and noticed the surrounding habitat having mixed forest patches with grassy habitat.

The snake was resting on the horse dung in a pathway. When disturbed, the snake slowly moved to grassy patches close to the pathway. Further survey is needed to understand this species distribution and ecology.

References

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