

FIRST RECORD OF GIANT AFRICAN LAND SNAIL *ACHATINA FULICA* FROM RAJASTHAN

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During a conchological survey of the water bodies and other damp localities in and around Udaipur City in Rajasthan, few specimens of Giant African Land Snail, *Achatina fulica*, were collected in Panchawati area near a nallah on 17 July 1996.

As many as seven species of freshwater snails have been described by Sharma (1997) from Udaipur region but little is known about the land snails of the area. Probably this is the first report of this land snail from Udaipur as well as Rajasthan hence worth placing on record.

During winter and summer, they remain hidden and with the onset of monsoon they come out of their hiding places and start breeding in grass lawns and other damp places. They are voracious feeders and impact heavily on the local vegetation. In one house, they were seen feeding on fallen fruits of *Coccinia cordifolia*. This snail is a prolific breeder and multiplies quickly. It was also observed to be eaten by Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*).

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Reference

Sharma (1997). Snails of Rajasthan. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 94(2): 433-34.



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PRESENCE OF SOUTHERN GOLDEN-BACKED WOODPECKER

DINOPIUM BENGHALENSE PUNCTICOLLE

IN GUJARI-KI-NAL FOREST OF UDAIPUR DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN

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On 4 March 1998, while inspecting Gujari-ki-nal Forest Nursery on the bank of a hill stream at the northern end of Jhameri Reserve Forest, in Udaipur District, Rajasthan, at about 1200 hrs., I observed three individuals of Southern Golden-backed Woodpecker, *Dinopium benghalense puncticolle* (Malherbe), with an orange-yellow colour back on a *Mitragyna parvifolia* tree. Fortunately, one pair of Northern Golden-backed Woodpeckers, *D. benghalense benghalense* (Linnaeus), was also present in the same nallah on a *Syzygium heyneanum* tree for comparison. Both the subspecies were seen many times during my subsequent excursions also. Few photographs of *D. benghalense puncticolle* were sent to Asad R. Rahmani, Director, Bombay Natural History Society, for his expert opinion. He gave some important clues to identify the two subspecies in the field. Later it was found that orange-yellow backed subspecies has spotted black and white throat, which proves it to be *D. benghalense puncticolle*.

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