

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE ON HERPETOFAUNA OF GIR FORETS

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The Gir National Park and Sanctuary contains 37 species of reptiles and six species of amphibians, including two new records of Kollegal Ground Gecko (*Geckoella collegalensis*) and Brown Vine Snake (*Ahaetulla pulverulenta*) (Das, 1997; Vyas, 1998b; Bhatt *et al.*, 1999). Results of further investigation on herpetofauna, added five species of reptiles (*Lygosoma albopunctata*, *Ophisops jerdoni*, *Lycodon striatus*, *Typhlops porrectus* and *Psammophis leithii*) and three species of amphibians (*Microhyla ornata*, *Euphlyctis hexadactylus* and

Tomopterna breviceps). This increases the total count to 42 species of reptiles and nine species of amphibians in the Gir Forest.

The gecko *Geckoella collegalensis* (Beddome, 1870) and snake *Ahatulla pulverulenta* (Dumeril, Bibron & Dumeril, 1854), are found only in the Western Ghats, southern India and Sri Lanka (Murthy, 1985; Das, 1994). Northern most distribution records of the *G. collegalensis* is Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai, Maharashtra (Sekar, 1994) and *A. pulverulenta* is Pimpri, Dangs, Gujarat (Vyas, 1988a) in Western Ghats, India. Present record of *G. collegalensis* (Vyas, 1998b) and *A. pulverulenta* from Gir Forest, Junagadh, Gujarat shows new distribution record of both species.

Distribution records of a few other vertebrates known from the Western Ghats and from Gujarat (Table 1) and above records of the two species of reptiles: *G. collegalensis* and *A. pulverulenta* from Gir forest of Gujarat, indicate the possibilities of Western Ghats fauna having extended north up to 24° latitude or further more.

Table 1. List of the vertebrate animals, which shows extended distribution records from the Gujarat.

Species	Recorded locality	Source
Mammals		
1. Rusty spotted cat <i>Felis rubiginosa</i>	¹ Shoolpaneshwar wildlife Sanctuary, Bharuch Dist. ² Gir Forest, Junagadh Dist.	¹ Chavan, <i>et al.</i> , 1991 ² Pathak, 1990
Birds		
2. Malabar Crested Lark <i>Galerida malabarica</i>	Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bharuch Dist.	Narve <i>et al.</i> , 1997
3. Malabar Whistling Thrush <i>Monticola horsfieldii</i>	Gir National Park & Sanctuary, Junagadh Dist.	Vyas, Rohit (per. communication)
Reptiles		
4. Gunther's Supple Skink <i>Lygosoma guentheri</i>	¹ Vadodara, Vadodara Dist. ² Pavagadh, Panchmahal Dist. Ahemdavad Dist.	^{1,2} Vyas, 1998
5. Lined Supple Skink <i>Lygosoma lineata</i>	Kavadia, Bharuch Dist.	Naik and Vinod, 1994
6. Roux's Forest Lizard <i>Calotes rouxii</i>	Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bharuch Dist.	Naik <i>et al.</i> , 1993
7. Nilgiri Shieldtail <i>Uropeltis ocellatus</i>	Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bharuch Dist.	Naik <i>et al.</i> , 1993
8. Flying Snake <i>Chrysopelea ornata</i>	Ronki, Rajkot Rajkot Dist.	S. Bhuch (pers. comm., 1999)
Amphibians		
9. Verrucose Frog <i>Limnonectes keralensis</i>	Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bharuch Dist.	Naik and Vinod, 1993

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BUTTERFLY DIVERSITY OF ASSAM STATE ZOO-CUM-BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Butterflies are the most beautiful and colourful creatures on the earth and have a great aesthetic value. About 1500 species of butterflies are found in India (Haribal, 1992). They vary greatly in colour, habit, size and form. The exact status of butterflies particularly of northeastern regions of India are still not clearly known due to lack of proper study.

The Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden (ASZCBG) was established in 1958, in the heart of Guwahati City (26°11'N and 91°45'E). The Zoo has a land area of about 130 ha., surrounded by two picturesque hills. The optimum temperature is 24°C with average rainfall of 136.43cm. The Zoo is designed for presenting all aspects of natural history and Animal Husbandry in an appropriate setting.

Due to its diversified habitat, butterflies from different families find representation in the Zoo campus. A study to compile the checklist of fauna and flora of the Zoo was carried out between August 1996 and April 1999. Besides butterflies, 63 species of mammals, 52 species of birds and 13 species of reptiles were also recorded. Among plants, 162 species of trees and 177 species of shrubs were identified. During the survey period a total of 79 species of butterflies were recorded (Table 1), of which seven species remains unidentified. Of the 72 species identified, nine belong to the family Papilionidae, 16 to Pieridae, 29 to Nymphalidae, 13 to Lycaenidae and five species to the Family Hesperidae. The butterfly species have been identified and verified following Haribal (1992) and Gay, *et. al.* (1992). Nomenclature is after Varshney (1983).

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