



# Occurrence of the Yellow-spotted Wolf Snake (*Lycodon flavomaculatus* Wall 1907) in Surat, Gujarat, India

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On 11 June 2017, we encountered a Yellow-spotted Wolf Snake (*Lycodon flavomaculatus* Wall, 1907) in Mindhi Village, Surat, Gujarat, India (21°22'52.90"N, 72°42'27.11"E). The snake was moving along a field margin next to a fallow field at 2115 h. Rocks, low vegetation, and fallen logs were in the surrounding area. The snake was docile and non-offensive while scale counts and photographs were taken. Scale counts confirmed it as a Yellow-spotted Wolf Snake (these snakes resemble the Barred Wolf Snake, *L. striatus*, but are readily distinguished using meristic characters). We found another snake at 2030 h on 15 April 2015

in a human settlement in the Olpad region of Surat, Gujarat (21°19'44.89"N, 72°46'13.68"E), where it was in a pile of bricks close to a house. It was rescued and released safely after data were collected. The distance between the two locations was about 8.73 km. These are the first records of the species in the Surat District.

Found mainly in the semi-arid zone of central India and some parts of the Western Ghats, Yellow-spotted Wolf Snakes are nocturnal and, like other wolf snakes, quite secretive. Consequently, very little information is available about the species' distribution and natural history. These snakes



**Fig. 1.** A Yellow-spotted Wolf Snake (*Lycodon flavomaculatus*) from Mindhi, Surat, Gujarat, India. Photograph by Krunal Trivedi.



**Fig. 2.** A Yellow-spotted Wolf Snake (*Lycodon flavomaculatus*) rescued from a pile of bricks in Olpad, Surat, Gujarat, India. Photo by Vyom Shah.

are known to climb and feed on lizards and small rodents. The nearest known locality for this snake is from Vadodra (Vyas and Upadhyaya 2008). It also has been recorded from Vidisha, (Sharma et al. 2015), Madhya Pradesh, Dharwad in Karnataka (Wall 1907), Raigarh (Walmiki et al. 2011), Sangli, Pune, and Nashik (Wall 1907), Buldhana and Vidarbha (Wall 1923), Amravati, including Melghat (Pradhan 2005; Nande and Deshmukh 2007), Satara (Chikane and Bhosale 2012), Solapur (Srinivasulu et al. 2014), and Nagpur (Deshmukh et al. 2015) in Maharashtra, and Bhanvagar and Vadodara (Vyas and Upadhyaya 2008) in Gujarat.

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