

Range Extension of the Satpura Leopard Gecko, *Eublepharis satpuraensis* (Squamata: Eublepharidae), from Jashpur District, Chhattisgarh, India

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Photographs by the senior author.

Four species of leopard geckos in the genus *Eublepharis*, the Common Leopard Gecko (*E. macularius*), Western Indian Leopard Gecko (*E. fuscus*), Eastern Indian Leopard Gecko (*E. hardwickii*), and the Satpura Leopard Gecko (*E. satpuraensis*), occur in India (Grismer 1988; Uetz et al. 2020). Mirza et al. (2014) described the range of the Satpura Leopard Gecko as the Satpura Hills, including Panchmari and the surrounding areas of the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Bhopal, the Melghat Tiger Reserve, the Pench Tiger Reserve, the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, and Jabalpur in central India. Basak et al. (2017) subsequently reported this species from the Bhormadeo Wildlife Sanctuary and adjacent areas in Chhattisgarh. Herein we report the presence of the species in Jashpur District, Chhattisgarh.

At 0020 h on 20 May 2020, during a faunal survey of Jashpur District, we found a juvenile *E. satpuraensis* (Fig. 1) near the Kailash Gufha Road (23°03'53.13"N, 83°33'26.79"E). At 0115 h the next day, we found an adult (Fig. 2) near Madheshwar Mountain (22°48'05.93"N,

84°02'40.05"E). These sites are approximately 300 km from the nearest previously known locality in the Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary. We identified the species using the key in Mirza et al. (2014). Both geckos were in rocky habitat and released after we took photographs. Extensive habitat destruction and mining in the area (Fig. 3) pose substantial threats to this population.

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Fig. 1. A juvenile Satpura Leopard Gecko (*Eublepharis satpuraensis*) from near the Kailash Gufha Road, Jashpur District, Chhattisgarh, India.



Fig. 2. An adult Satpura Leopard Gecko (*Eublepharis satpuraensis*) from Madheshwar Mountain, Jashpur District, Chhattisgarh, India.



Fig. 3. Extensive mining in the Jashpur District, Chhattisgarh, India, poses a substantial threat to the local population of the Satpura Leopard Gecko (*Eublepharis satpuraensis*).

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