



# An Unusually Patterned Common Wolfsnake, *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus 1758), from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, India

Sandipt Maharana<sup>1</sup>, Aurobindo Samal<sup>2</sup>, Swarup Fullonton<sup>3</sup>, and Shreya Pandey<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation (WBC), Talcher, Angul, Odisha–759100, India (sandipt.maharana2@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Earth Crusaders Organisation (ECO), Bhubaneswar, Odisha–751019, India (aurobindo.cse@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup>Amity Institute of Forestry and Wildlife, Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh–201301, India (fullontonswarup@gmail.com; shreyapandey.2244@gmail.com [corresponding author])

Color patterns in snakes are generally associated with defense and escape strategies (Creer 2005). For example, the banding coloration of some snakes makes them appear uniformly colored when evading predators, but cryptic when they are still (Pough 1976).

At about 1950 h on 2 November 2021, when responding to a snake rescue call from Baridih, Jamshedpur,

Jharkhand, India (22.795726°N, 86.239107°E), we encountered a Common Wolfsnake (*Lycodon aulicus*) that lacked the typical transverse bands (Fig.1). This pattern, the result of transverse blocks transformed into longitudinal stripes, is termed blotch pattern transformation (Klauber 1972). The snake was rescued, photographed, and relocated to a safer suitable habitat.



**Fig. 1.** Comparison of an unusually patterned Common Wolfsnake (*Lycodon. aulicus*) (left) and a typically banded individual (right) from Baridih, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, India. Photographs by Sandipt Maharana (left) and Aadit Patel (right).

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