



An Eyeless Neonatal Common Sandboa (*Eryx conicus*) from Valsad, Gujarat, India

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At 1730 h on 12 December 2021, while conducting field-work in Kundi Village of Haji Talav, Valsad, Gujarat, India (20.664335°N, 72.971133°E), we encountered a neonatal Common Sandboa (*Eryx conicus*) without eyes (Fig. 1). Although we believed that the likelihood of this snake surviving any length of time in nature was quite low, we photographed the snake in its natural habitat without disturbing it.

Although several reports (e.g., Snake Discovery 2019; Jayprehistoricipets 2020; Always Evolving Pythons 2020) document captive snakes born without eyes, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of an eyeless snake in nature.

Acknowledgements

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Literature Cited

Always Evolving Pythons. 2020. We hatched snakes without eyes. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-91DIKZJ85U>>.

Jayprehistoricipets. 2020. <<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2798123117075798>>.

Snake Discovery. 2019. Our newest snake has no eyes. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4uJ6j8AhEM>>.



Fig. 1. An eyeless neonatal Common Sandboa (*Eryx conicus*) from Valsad, Gujarat, India. Photographs by Aadit Patel.