



# New District Record for the Bamboo Pitviper, *Trimeresurus gramineus* (Shaw 1802), from Chandrapur District, Maharashtra, India

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The Bamboo Pitviper, *Trimeresurus (Craspedocephalus) gramineus* (Shaw 1802) is endemic to India. The species is known from the peninsular regions of the Western Ghats, including the states of Gujrat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, and the state of Andhra Pradesh (including Shevaroy, Javadi, Seshachalam, Nallamala Hills, and Adilabad) in the Eastern Ghats (Srinivasulu 2003; Whitaker and Captain 2004; Srinivasulu and Das 2008). Nande and Deshmukh (2007) documented this species from Amaravati District and Deshmukh et al. (2020) reported this species from Bhandara District, Maharashtra. Herein we provide the first documentation of the Bamboo Pitviper (*T. gramineus*) from Chandrapur District Maharashtra, India.

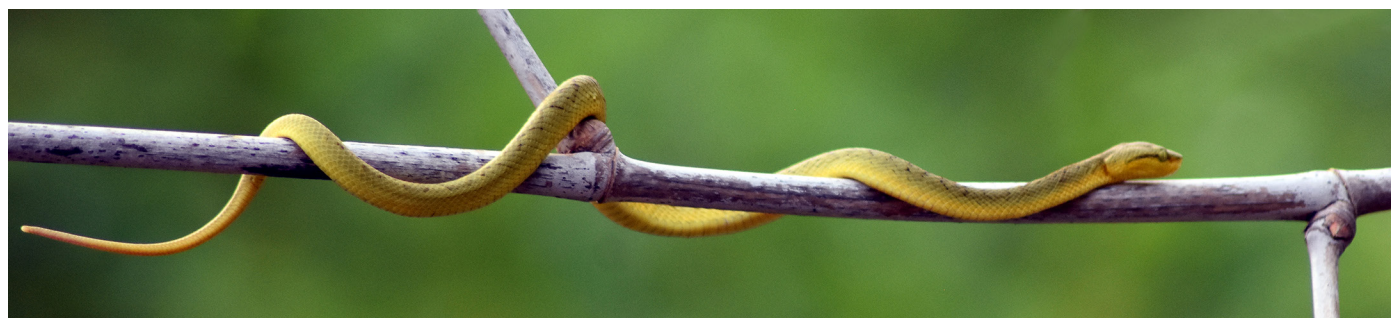
At 1240 h on 23 August 2021, during a rescue operation at Nokari Village, Korpana Tehsil, Chandrapur District (19.695833 N, 79.149167 E), Ajay Giradkar and Dipesh Wankar encountered a young Bamboo Pitviper on bushes near the rescue site (Fig. 1). We informed the Forest Department about the rescue of this individual for official records and reported this species for the first time within the geographical boundaries of the Chandrapur District. We recorded meristic and morphological data (Table 1), photo-

graphed, and released the snake back into appropriate habitat in the presence of Forest Department personnel. The identity of the snake was confirmed by Dinesh Khate, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

The *T. gramineus* was rescued from the bushes near a water stream in the month of August, which is the monsoon season in Central India. This species is also known to inhabit low bushes and is frequently found near streams (Whitaker and Captain 2004). Many pitvipers reportedly have an affinity for water in nature (Daltry et al. 1998), which could explain the presence of *T. gramineus* in the Chandrapur District. The nearest known localities for this snake are Bhandara District, Maharashtra, which is 200 km (aerial distance) and Amravati District, Maharashtra, which is 215 km (aerial distance) from the present location.

### Acknowledgements

We thank Dinesh Khate, Sagar Deshmukh, and Swapnil Badhekar for assistance and review of the earlier draft of this manuscript. We are also grateful to Vijay Pachare, Amar Pachare, Santosh Korde, Pratibha Thakre, and Pankaj for their guidance in various ways.



**Figure 1.** The Bamboo Pitviper (*Trimeresurus gramineus*) found on 23 August 2021 during a rescue operation at Nokari Village, Korpana Tehsil, Chandrapur District, by Ajay Giradkar and Dipesh Wankar. Photograph by Jagdish Rewatkar.

**Table 1.** The scale counts of the Bamboo Pit viper (*Trimeresurus gramineus*) from Chandrapur compared with descriptions in Smith (1943), and Whitaker and Captain (2004).

Character	Present Specimen	Smith (1943)	Whitaker and Captain (2004)
<b>Dorsal Scale rows</b>	21:21:15	21:21:15	21:21:15
<b>Ventrals</b> (As per Dowling 1951)	169	145-175 (Males) 164-177 (Females)	145-175 (Males) 164-177 (Females)
<b>Subcaudals</b>	62	55-71 (Males) 57-62 (Females)	55-71 (Males) 57-62 (Females)
<b>Cloacal</b>	Entire	Entire	Entire
<b>Supralabials</b>	11-11 1st not in contact with nasal; 3 <sup>rd</sup> largest	10-12 1st not in contact with nasal; 3 <sup>rd</sup> largest	10-12 1st not in contact with nasal
<b>Scales between internasals</b>	1	1 or 2	1 or 2
<b>Scales rows between supralabials and suboculars</b>	2	2	2
<b>Scale rows between supraoculars</b>	11	8-11	8-11
<b>Supraocular</b>	Narrow, entire	Narrow, entire	Narrow, entire
<b>Subocular</b>	Elongated	Elongated	Elongated
<b>Head Scales</b>	Small, Subequal, Sub-imbricate, Smooth	Small, Subequal, Sub-imbricate, Smooth	Small, more or less equal, Sub-imbricate, Smooth
<b>Temporals</b>	Small, Smooth	Small, Smooth	Small, Smooth
<b>Preoculars</b>	3/3	----	3
<b>Postoculars</b>	2/2	----	2

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