



New Record of the Bar-necked Keelback (*Fowlea schnurrenbergeri*) from the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India

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The Bar-necked Keelback, *Fowlea schnurrenbergeri* (Kramer 1977), which is associated with wetlands and riparian situations, has been recorded from relatively few localities. Records exist for Deeporbeel, Assam; Sunderban, Kolkata, 24 Parganas and Jalpaiguri, West Bengal; Patna, Bihar; Pattamunde, Odisha; and Nishangara and Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, in India; Devanandpur and Bhairawa in Nepal; Thatta and Mir Pur Sakro, Sindh Province, in Pakistan; and Narail, Khulna Division, and Nasirnagar, Chittagong Division, Bangladesh (Smith 1943; Kramer 1977; Purkayastha et al. 2010).

The 38.81-km² Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (Fig. 1), situated on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Morigaon District, Assam, India, is best known as the protected area with the highest density of Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) (Ellis et al. 2015). However, except for documentation of turtle diversity (Sengupta et al. 1998), to the



Figure 2. A photograph of the Bar-necked Keelback (*Fowlea schnurrenbergeri*) from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India. Photograph by Pramod Choudhury.



Figure 1. A map of Assam, India, showing the location of the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

best of our knowledge, no other documented records of reptiles exist for the sanctuary. Herein we report the presence of the Bar-necked Keelback from the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

At 1628 h on 1 April 2023, during a faunal survey near the Pagladoba Base Camp (26.22205, 92.07074) in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, we encountered a male *Fowlea schnurrenbergeri* (ca. 550 mm total length) (Fig. 2) on a jeep track between the Pagladoba and Hahsorha Base Camps. This is the first record of the species from the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. A photographic voucher was deposited at the Lee

Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore (ZRC(IMG) 2.617). The identity of the species was confirmed by Rupankar Bhattacharjee.

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