



SNAKE (REPTELIA) FAUNA FROM SHAHADA TALUKA OF NANDURBAR DISTRICT (MS) INDIA.

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ABSTRACT: In the present study, 14 species were reported from Shahada taluka of that 03 species were venomous and 10 species were non-venomous and 1 species was semi-venomous. Major three species Russell's viper, common Krait, and spectacled Cobra. Snake conservation is very important to protect and balance the food chain.

Key words: - Snake, Reptelia, Fauna, Shahada, Nandurbar,.

INTRODUCTION :

With their ecological niche and their dynamic integration with other species snakes promote the maintenance of ecosystem around the universe. This animal plays an important biological role in food chain. Snake is an important animal component in their natural environment by regulating the populations of their prey. Depletion of these animals globally and their extinction is causing a careful and attentive task to the people of all spheres of the society to protect them. This research addressed to determine the diversity distribution of the snake species in Shahada area of Maharashtra. The study period was August 2020 to January 2021.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

To determine snake diversity in different habitats in Shahada region, the authors and rescue were visited the places after receiving call from person who has seen the snake in his vicinity. The description by the caller, time and area of call itself gave idea of the presence of probable type of snake species. The snakes were caught by the aluminium hooked sticks, upon put in to plastic bottles with holes for aeration.

The photographs were taken during this study only photographs were used. The caught snakes were released in forest area which comes under forest conservator Shahada division of Nandurbar district. The data was collected during year 2020 to 2021. The collected data were categorised as Venomous, Semi-Venomous and non-venomous. The snake species were identified by using snake identification keys from standard literature and online resources published by Daniel J.C (2002), Devrus P.J. (1970), Whitaker and Captain (2008).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

During the study total 14 species of snake were reported from current study area. The Indian cobra, Rat Snake, Common krait, Common Wolf Snake, Common Sand Boa found in the study site in all seasons of the year. Russell's viper occurred only during their activation period the month of September to May. The snake species like Barred Wolf Snake, Indian Smooth Snake, Green Wine Snake, Indian Rock Python and Common Cat Snake were reported during monsoon period. The snake is one of the successful vertebrates on the earth. Pawan et

al.,(2018) reported 26 snakes species from around Nanded city of Maharashtra state. Total 25 snake species were reported from semi urban area of Buldhana district (Kale et al., 2019).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

It is concluded that in all 14 species of snakes were recorded which include 03 species venomous, 1 species semi-venomous and 10 species non-venomous found in Shahada taluka region. Fear of bite and lack of knowledge are main reasons behind snake killing. Special awareness programmes for farmers, students and society is necessary for conservation of snakes diversity and food chain.

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Table 1: Checklist of Venomous, Semi-venomous and Non-venomous Snakes in Shahada region, Maharashtra

Sr.No.	Common Name	Scientist Name	Type
1	Russell's Viper	<i>Daboia russelii</i>	Venomous
2	Spectacled Cobra	<i>Naja naja</i>	Venomous
3.	Common Sindh Krait	<i>Bugarous S. Sindhanus</i>	Venomous
4.	Common wolf snake	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i>	Non- Venomous
5.	Common Cat Snake	<i>Boiga trigonata</i>	Non- Venomous
6.	Checkered Keelback	<i>Xenochrophis piscator</i>	Non- Venomous
7.	Indian Rock Python	<i>Python m. molurus</i>	Non- Venomous
8.	Yellow Spotted Wolf Snake	<i>Lycodonflavomaculatus</i>	Non- Venomous
9.	Barred Wolf Snake	<i>Lycodon Striatus</i>	Non- Venomous
10.	Russell's Kukri Snake	<i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i>	Non- Venomous
11.	Common Sand Boa	<i>Gongylophis concus</i>	Non- Venomous
12.	Indian Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	Non- Venomous
13.	Indian Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella brachyura</i>	Non- Venomous
14	Green Vine Snake	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	Semi-Venomous