



# Diversity of Snakes from Mangrulpir tahsil district Washim, Maharashtra, India

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## ABSTRACT

The main aim of the present study was to investigate snake diversity of Mangrulpir Tahsil. The snakes which are observed or reported by local people are caught by well-trained snake catchers. To save the wild species mistakenly entered at human habitat thousands of wild species of snakes have been successfully saved and relocated to their wild life habitat. Before relocation snakes were identified. The data were collected during June 2017 to May 2018. In present study total sixteen species of snakes were observed belongs to four families, from which four were venomous, ten were non venomous and two were mildly venomous.

**Keywords:** Snake species, Venomous, Non-Venomous Mangrulpir tahsil

## INTRODUCTION

Snakes are the limbless reptiles found in all parts of the world. Snakes fascinates us more than any other animal on the earth. Because people don't know much about them, snakes are misunderstood and feared. In India most of our snakes are absolutely harmless to humans while four species are responsible for thousands of deaths each year (Whitakar, et al., 2008). Snakes can hear low frequency sounds ranges between 200 to 500 Hz. They have no eardrum. They unable to hear talking, music or a gunshot. Snakes are very sensitive to vibration of the ground. About 25% of Indian snakes are ovoviviparous. About 278 species are found in India out of which 58 species are Poisonous (Raut *et al.*, 2014). Snakes are intrinsically fascinating and form an important component of the biota. It is natural that their curious mode of propulsion, venom and constriction mechanism have made them important group of predators and the interaction maintains a natural balance in the forest and deserts, the plains and hills of India (Harney, 2011 and Walmiki et al., 2012). About 3500 species of snakes are recorded on earth inhabiting both land and sea of which about 375 are venomous (Sharma, 1982). Snake bite are common in rural part of India. Most people kill the snake after it bite someone, and treated patient by some Baba with mantra and some herbal remedies. Often the patient is taken to hospital too late to be saved. We can avoid such deaths with first aid and early intervention of proper

treatment in well-equipped hospital. Prevention is the first step in stopping the snakebite crisis. Save the snake is going to work harder, smarter and even more determined than ever to continue our work to mitigate human snake conflict. The present diversity of snake studies are on the basis of snake rescue done and attempt to evaluate the information and abundance of species.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

On request of local people snake were caught by hands, trap or stick by trained rescuers and his team

from various localities of Mangrulpir tahsil. At that time their characteristics features were noted and photographed. The snake's species were identified as per the field guide of Whitaker and Captain (2008); Khaire (2010); Deoras (1965) and caught snakes were relocated to their wild habitat.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

In present study period 307 snakes were observed belongs to sixteen species having four families, from which four were venomous, ten were non venomous and two were mildly venomous. The data is as follows.

**Table 1: Checklist of Snakes on the basis of collected data from Mangrulpir Thasil**

Sr. No	Common Name of snakes	Scientific name	Local name in Marathi	Nature	Family
1	Spectacled Cobra	<i>Naja naja</i>	Nag	Venomous	Elapidae
2	Common Krait	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	Maniyar	Venomous	Elapidae
3	Saw Scaled Viper	<i>Echis carinatus</i>	Furse	Venomous	Viperidae
4	Russell 'S Viper	<i>Daboia russelii</i>	Ghonas	Venomous	Viperidae
5	Green Keelback	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i>	Gautya	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
6	Checkered Keelback	<i>Xenochorhis piscator</i>	Pandiwad	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
7	Common Wolf Snake	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i>	Kawdya	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
8	Common Kukri	<i>Oligodon arnensis</i>	Kukri	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
9	Indian Rat Snake	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	Dhaman	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
10	Common Trinket Snake	<i>Coelognathus helena</i>	Taskar	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
11	Banded Racer	<i>Argyrogena fasciolata</i>	Dhool Nagin	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
12	Black Headed Snake	<i>Sibynophis subpunctatus</i>	Kaaltondya	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
13	Striped Keel Back Snake	<i>Amphiesma stolatum</i>	Naneti	Non- Venomous	Colubridae
14	Red Sand Boa	<i>Eryx johnii</i>	Mandul	Non- Venomous	Boidae
15	Common Vine Snake	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	Harantol	Mildly Venomous	Colubridae
16	Common Cat Snake	<i>Boiga trigonata</i>	Maanjarya	Mildly venomous	Colubridae

**Table 2: Showing diversity of Snakes and their abundance in Mangrulpir Thasil**

Sr. No	Common Name	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
<b>I</b>	<b>Venomous Snakes</b>													
1	Spectacled Cobra	2	5	9	11	15	4	11	6	5	7	3	5	83
2	Common Krait	1	1	1	2	3	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	15
3	Saw scaled Viper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	02
4	Russell 's Viper	1	0	1	3	0	0	2	3	2	4	1	0	17

**Table 2: Showing diversity of Snakes and their abundance in Mangrulpir Thasil**

Sr. No	Common Name	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
<b>II Non Venomous</b>														
1	Green Keelback	1	1	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	21
2	Checkered keelback	2	7	8	12	9	4	9	1	0	1	0	0	53
3	Common Wolf snake	2	5	5	1	11	5	5	2	2	1	0	0	39
4	Common Kukri	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	13
5	Indian Rat snake	1	2	3	2	3	4	2	1	3	2	1	1	25
6	Common Trinket snake	1	3	5	1	6	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	20
7	Banded Racer	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	06
8	Black Headed Snake	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	01
9	Striped keel back Snake	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	02
10	Reds Sand boa	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	07
<b>III Mildly Venomous</b>														
1	Common Vine snake	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	01
2	Common Cat snake	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	02
	<b>Total snakes</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>307</b>

In present study maximum stress calls were observed during the month of August, September and October. The expansion of human population is also expanding the large civilised area and compacting wildlife habitat. It is noted that of 16 species of snakes belong to five families were recorded in and around the human habitat of resident people of Aurangabad district out of which four species, two were semi poisonous and remaining ten was non-poisonous (Chandrakant et al., 2016). Vibhute (2018) recorded 13 species of poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes Atpadi city and adjoining area. Tal. Atpadi. Dist. Sangli. Kale et al. (2019) recorded total number of 25 species of snakes belonging to 6 families, 22 genera, of which 17 species belonging to non-venomous, 3 semi-venomous and 5 species were venomous.

In present study there was an abundance of venomous snake Spectacled Cobra and non-venomous Checkered keelback snakes and very few are non-venomous Black Headed Snake and mildly venomous Common Vine snake, Common Cat snake. Snakes are really amazing and simply awesome animals, that we need to conserve just like all of this country's incredible wildlife.

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### Conflict of interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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