



First sighting Record of *Giris Geckoella Cyrtodactylus Varadgirii* in Palam Tq.Palam Dist. Parbhani, Maharashtra, India

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Manuscript details:

Received: 18.05.2024
Accepted: 24.07.2024
Published: 31.07.2024

Cite this article as:

Anil Jayvantrao Uratwad, Shankar Panchal and Ganesh Kura (2024) First sighting Record of *Giris Geckoella Cyrtodactylus Varadgirii* in Palam Tq.Palam Dist. Parbhani, Maharashtra, India, *Int. J. of Life Sciences*, 12 (2): 209-211

Available online on <http://www.ijlsci.in>
ISSN: 2320-964X (Online)
ISSN: 2320-7817 (Print)



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ABSTRACT

A new species of Gecko, named *Giris Geckoella Cyrtodactylus Varadgirii* after Dr. Varad Giri, was discovered in Palam Tq.Palam Dist. Parbhani in February 2021. This species, 6 to 7 cm long, has been sighted in various districts of the state and is characterized by black and whitish colored spots on its body. Dr. Varad Giri, known for valuable work in wildlife research, has the new species named after him.

Keywords: First sighting Record, *Giris Geckoella Cyrtodactylus Varadgirii*, Palam, Parbhani, India

INTRODUCTION

There are many animals and plants on earth. Many birds, animals, insects, microorganisms and different types of plants are found in it. Parbhani district is a rich in biodiversity. Parbhani district has a very large diversity of species. Biodiversity at the Maharashtra level is abundant but at the district level the geographical conditions of this place are very favorable. 6511.00 sq.km of Parbhani district. 104.146 sq.km. (1.60%) of the geographical area is forest area. The forest of Parbhani division are open and scrub lands and of poor quality. The forests area of the division are mostly situated on the crest line of the Jintur range running north west to south east which forms a part of the Ajanta ranges emanating from sahyadris. The climate of the Parbhani district is generally hot except during the south west monsoon season. The cool dry season from December to February by the hot dry season from March to May. The South west monsoon rainy Season from June to September and the post Monsoon salubrious and dry season from October to November.

The subgenus *Geckoella* Gray is a morphologically distinct radiation within the Gekkonidae genus *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, endemic to peninsular India and Sri Lanka (Wood *et al.* 2012; Agarwal & Karanth



Figure 1: Giris Geckoella *Cyrtodactylus Varadgirii*

2015). These small to mid-sized (snout to vent length 45–80 mm), ground-dwelling geckos are found mainly in tropical, seasonal forest habitats (Smith 1935). The first *Geckoella* was described over 150 years ago, with seven species described between 1864 and 1885, though only a single species has been described since, from Sri Lanka (Uetz 2016). Seven species of *Geckoella* are currently recognized, though recent molecular work revealed that four of the five Indian taxa represent species complexes, with at least seven additional undescribed species (Agarwal and Karanth 2015). This is a new species of ground dwelling lizard discovered as recently as 2016 and was named after Scientist Varad Giri. This is the third time that a species has been named after the Indian Scientist.

Giris *Geckoella Cyrtodactylus Varadgirii*. It was first sighted by, Shankar Pachal Sir in Swami Smarth Nagar out side the road in 09 February 2021 in Palam Tq. Palam Dist. Parbhani. After that, records of this Gecko have also been taken in Raigad, Amravati, Nanded, Chandrapur Ratnagiri districts of the state. This new Gecko species has been named after Dr. Varad Giri. Dr. Varad Giri has done valuable work in the field of wildlife research. The English name of this species is Giris *Geckoella* and the scientific name is *Cyrtodactylus Varadgirii*. This new species is 6 to 7 cm long and has black and whitish colored spots on its body.

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