



# Present Scenario of Snake Diversity in and around Ramkrishna Nagar Parbhani, Maharashtra State India

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## ABSTRACT

Class Reptilia were dominant in the past era. At present many species of reptiles become extinct. Besides this at present there is huge curiosity among people about the animal included in this group. Snakes are attracting more attention of human beings due to their life threatening attacks and special appearance. Snakes are the important component of food chain. They play key role in controlling rodent pests. They maintain the nature and play important component of role for farmers. Decrease in number of these animals through out Globe and their extinction causes a serious problem to the ecosystem. It is necessary to conserve them. A checklist of snakes is prepared to show the present scenario of snake diversity in and around Ramkrishna Nagar Parbhani, Maharashtra State, India, on the basis of information collected from survey during June 2020 to May 2021. The captured snakes represent poisonous, semi-poisonous and non-poisonous category. The present study is an attempt to calculate the information of species of snakes and transform it to the society people for increasing their knowledge & save the life of snakes. As i am one of the member of snake friend association. This survey in future will help to increase awareness and conservation of snake fauna in this region.

**Keywords:** Snake, diversity poisonous non- poisonous, Parbhani India.

## INTRODUCTION

India is the 6<sup>th</sup> mega biodiversity country in the World. It is well known for it's biodiversity in plants, animals as well as culture. Among vertebrate's reptiles are still poorly known and are highly threatened. Decrease in reptiles population is responsible for imbalance in any ecosystem. Decline in population of reptiles is a major concern and causes of catastrophic decline are habitat loss, environmental pollution, lethal diseases, unsustainable use of natural resources and Global climate change (Luiselli *et al.* 2020). Snakes are an important form of biota. It is natural that their curious mode of

propulsion, venom and contrasting mechanism have made them important group of predators. Snakes play key ecological role in controlling pests (Fitch 1949 & Gibbons 1988). Worldwide near about 3783 snake species are found of which 279 species of snakes are found only in India (Janani *et al.* 2016) among this 80% snakes are non-poisonous (Kale *et al.* 2016) and poisonous snakes include about 58 species of which only 4 species of snakes are dangerous to human (Jadhav *et al.* 2018). Diversity and distribution of snakes in India have been studied by many researchers, some of them are Bansode *et al.* (2016), Janani *et al.* (2016), Manhas *et al.* (2016), Tambre *et al.* (2016), Joshi *et al.* (2017), Kale *et al.* (2019), Pawar *et al.* (2020), Makne (2021) etc. The present study is an attempt to calculate the information about occurrence and species diversity richness and further assist in the knowledge, awareness and conservation of snake fauna in Ramkrishna Nagar Parbhani Maharashtra State India.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Study Area:

Ramkrishna Nagar is located on the right side of Basmat road in Prabhad No. 15 of Parbhani City. The Parbhani city is located at 19.27° N 76.78° E. It's climate is classified as tropical.

### Method:

Study area were visited during morning and evening hours for collection of snake occurrence calls, well trained snake catcher or snake rescue calls and reports of accidental road kills these type of Methods were used.

### Identification:

When snakes from different localities of Ramkrishna nagar were captured by snake rescue members in the houses and were viewed during visits randomly after catching the snakes their characteristics, predominant features were noted, photographed and for correct identification of snake by books Daniel (2002), Whitaker (2006) were followed and some time with the help of snake experts or by local people. The captured snakes were released in their natural habitat with the help of snake friends.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the Present survey an attempt has been made to show the present scenario of snake diversity in and around Ramkrishna Nagar Parbhani Maharashtra State India. The Present survey was carried out during the period of June 2020 to May 2021.

During the survey period poisonous, non-poisonous and semi-poisonous snakes were recorded. Among poisonous snakes, Russell's Viper commonly Known as Parad in Marathi, Naja Naja commonly known as cobra and Nag in marathi, common krait commonly known as manyar were observed. Above these poisonous snakes were commonly found during the study period. All of them are deadly poisonous to the mankind, and other domestic animals. Among semi poisonous snakes cat snake commonly known as Manjrya was also located some time during the study period. Among Non-poisonous snakes, Indian rock python commonly known as Ajar, wolf snake, Green keel back Indian rat snake commonly known as dhaman, banded racer, striped keel back, commonly Known as Naneti, Red sand boa were observed commonly. Divad, taskar and other few nonpoisonous snakes were also observed during the study period. Above all non-poisonous snakes are not harmful to the life of mankind and other domestic animals.

## CONCLUSION

The study area with huge green vegetation more water supply forms a suitable habitat for other reptiles including snakes. But now they are under threat due to infrastructural development in these area. During the study period many poisonous, semi-poisonous and non-poisonous snakes have made their appearance in and around study area with proximity to human population due to loss of natural habitats and changing environmental conditions.

Due to the fast urbanization in the Parbhani city natural habitat and prey of snakes become scare. Because of aforesaid fact the snakes have to move outside their natural habitats & come commonly in the vicinity of people houses. Due to the fear in mind about snakes in common people when they observe any snake then they will try to kill the snake without knowing that the snake observed is poisonous or non-poisonous. This act of common people is responsible for decreasing the population of snake in nature.

Therefore, the present scenario of snake diversity in and around Ramkrishna Nagar Parbhani Maharashtra state Parbhani shows necessity of continuous monitoring and systematic study of these animals including their protection measures. It is also important to increase awareness among local people to conserve these key role playing animals in the ecosystem for its natural balance.

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