



New Locality Record of the Lined Stripe-necked Snake, *Liopeltis calamaria* (Günther 1856) (Squamata: Colubridae) from Nepal

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The Lined Stripe-necked Snake (*Liopeltis calamaria*) was long thought to be distributed solely in Sri Lanka and India (e.g., Chunekar and Alekar 2015) until Bhattarai et al. (2017a) recorded *L. calamaria* for the first time from Dhodeni, Kabilas, Chitwan in Nepal in degraded agricultural land. At 1309 h on 13 March 2018, we encountered a snake (Fig. 1) moving along a forest trail at Gairigaun, Makwanpur, Nepal (27.39752°N, 85.38385°E, WGS 1984; elev. 825 m; Fig. 2). The snake was brown, slender-bodied, smooth-scaled, and had large round pupils; it was 208 mm in total length, dorsal scale rows numbered 15:15:15, ventrals 140, and subcaudals 68. It had one preocular, two postoculars, seven supralabials with the 3rd and 4th in contact with the eye, and

the nasal was not divided. Scalation corresponded to descriptions of *Liopeltis calamaria* in Smith (1943). After identification by the first author, a digital photo voucher (ZRC(IMG) 2.386) was deposited at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore. The snake was released at the site of capture.

Liopeltis calamaria is a terrestrial, diurnally active snake reportedly found in dry tropical forests associated with plateaus (Narayanan 2016). In Nepal, this species has been recorded from only two locations, both in severely altered habitats. The new location was a degraded Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest approximately 100 km east of the earlier record (Bhattarai et al. 2017a). The snake was near a village



Fig. 1. Dorsum (left) and lateral view of the head (right) of a Lined Stripe-necked Snake (*Liopeltis calamaria*) encountered at Gairigaun, Makwanpur, Nepal. Photograph by Santosh Bhattarai.

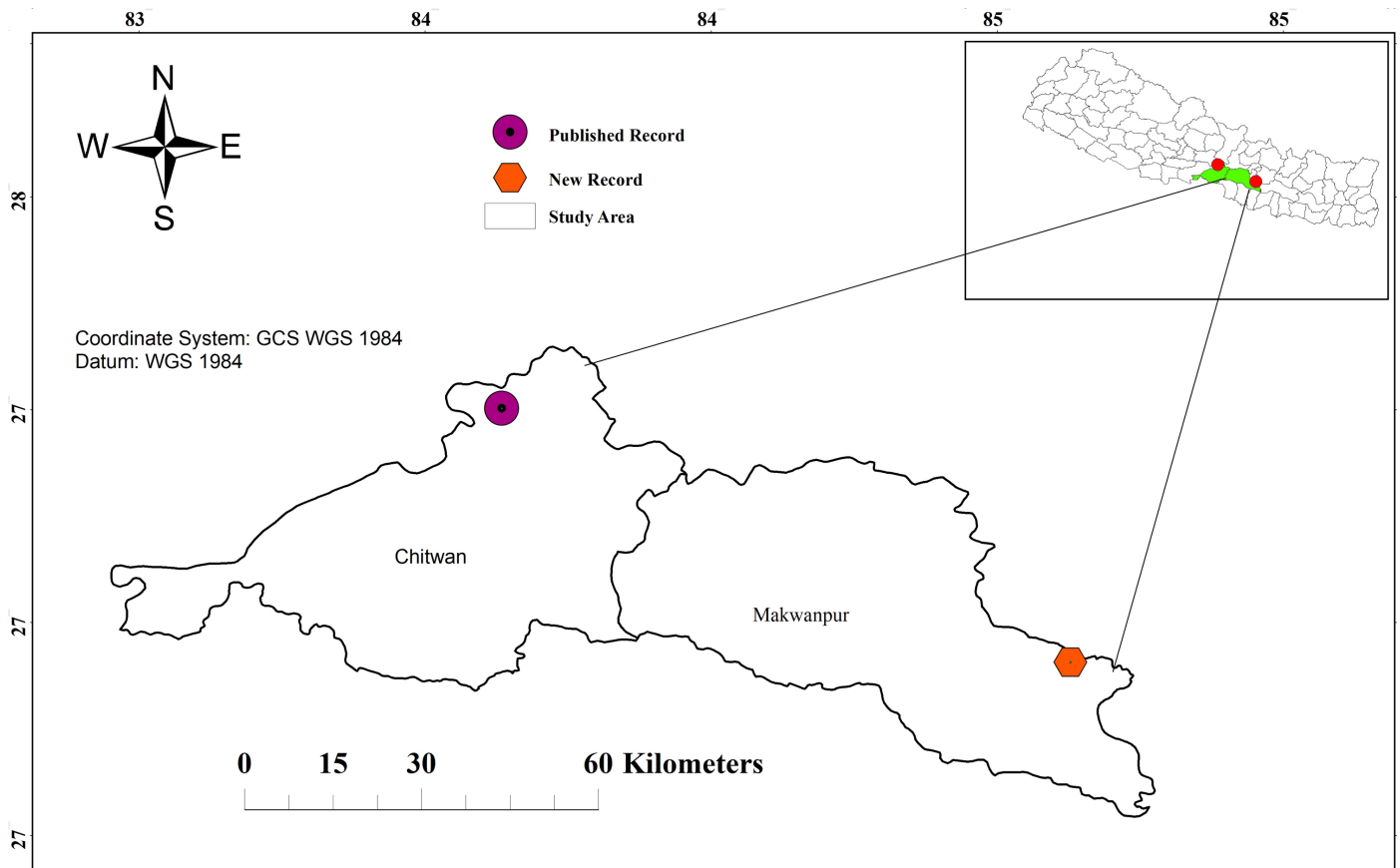


Fig. 2. Locality records of the Lined Stripe-necked Snake (*Liopeltis calamaria*) in Nepal.

where people perceive all snakes to be venomous and kill them whenever they are encountered (Bhattarai et al. 2017b; Sharma et al. 2013). This species is likely to have wider distribution in Nepal. We suggest a detailed inventory be implemented to establish its distribution, ecology, and conservation threats. This species has not yet been assessed for the IUCN Red List.

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