

The Western Ghats or 'Sahyadris' is home to some very unique flora, fauna and fungi. The terrestrial ecosystem of the Sahyadri and peninsular India, and biodiversity are highly diverse supporting livelihoods, providing invaluable ecosystem services and sustaining more than 400 million people in the world's highest concentration of humans in a biodiversity hotspot.

The Western Ghats has a high proportion of endemic faunal species. If an animal or plant species' natural home (habitat) is restricted to one particular area or space on the globe, it is known as an endemic species. For example, *Calotes ellioti* Elliot's Forest Lizard is endemic to the Western Ghats. The greatest number of endemics in the Western Ghats is found among the amphibians (78%) followed by reptiles (66%). The checklist given in this fold-out is the list of endemic reptiles of peninsular India. The Sahyadris is witnessing rapid developmental activities leading to habitat disturbance and degradation, pollution due to industrial and agro expansion, and tourism-related development shrinking more and more pristine habitats throughout the range. It is time now to get aware of such causes, find ways to reduce them to ensure continued survival of these unique living organisms found nowhere else other than the Sahyadris.

This fold-out is a small section of reptiles of the Western Ghats that have been assessed for their IUCN Red List. Colour code denotes species of the same family.

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The Sahyādrī Reptiles



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The Sahyādrī
Reptiles



AGAMIDAE
*Calotes ellioti*¹

Elliot's Forest Lizard
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Draco dussumieri*²

Southern Flying Lizard
Endemic to Peninsular India

*Otocryptis beddomii*³

Indian Kangaroo Lizard
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Psammophilus blanfordanus*⁴

Blanford's Rock Agama
Endemic to Peninsular India

*Salea anamallayana*⁵

Anaimalai Spiny Lizard
Endemic to Southern Western Ghats

GEKKONIDAE
*Calodactylodes aureus*⁶

Indian Golden Gecko
Endemic to Peninsular India

*Cnemaspis ornata*³

Ornate Day Gecko
Endemic to Southern Western Ghats

*Cyrtodactylus nebulosus*⁷

Clouded Indian Gecko
Endemic to India

*Geckoella deccanensis*⁴

Gunther's Indian Gecko
Endemic to Northern Western Ghats

*Hemidactylus maculatus*²

Spotted Leaf-toed Gecko
Endemic to Peninsular India

*Hemiphyllodactylus aurantiacus*⁸

Southern Ghats Slender Gecko
Endemic to Peninsular India

LACERTIDAE
*Ophisops microlepis*⁹

Endemic to India

SCINCIDAE
*Eutropis allapallensis*⁴

Schmidt's Mabuya
Endemic to India

*Kaestlea bilineata*⁵

Two-lined Ground Skink
Endemic to Southern Western Ghats

*Lygosoma guentheri*¹⁰

Günther's Writhing Snake
Endemic to Peninsular India

*Ristella beddomii*⁵

Beddome's Cat Skink
Endemic to Western Ghats

Reptiles, namely snakes, lizards, crocodiles and turtles are cold-blooded animals and their skin is covered with hard, dry scales. They do not burn as much energy keeping their body warm and as a result do not eat nearly as much food as a similar sized mammal or other warm-blooded animal.

Snakes are legless, elongated, carnivorous reptiles. They lack eyelids and external ears. Young snakes when they grow shed their skin. Snakes, if they eat large prey, can go weeks with out feeding. Some examples of snakes are cobra and viper. Snakes are often hated and attacked by human though a small percentage of them are poisonous. Snakes are not dangerous unless disturbed or provoked. Snakes do humans a great service by controlling crop pests like rats.

Lizards are similar to snakes but with legs. They are most closely related to snakes, but unlike snakes, lizards have movable eyelids. Lizards have a small head, short neck, and long body and tail. Some examples of lizards are garden lizards, chameleons, geckos, monitor lizards and skinks. Males change colour during the breeding season, in order to be more attractive to the female. Habitat destruction is the biggest threat to the lizards.

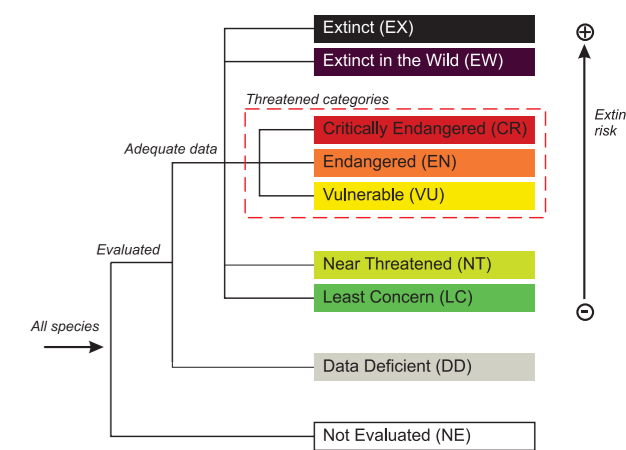
Crocodiles are semi-aquatic reptiles. Gharial is an example. These reptiles are carnivores. They are very strong with bodies built for predation including powerful tapering jaws. They are good at hearing and they communicate with a wide range of vocalizations such as grunts, coughs and barks. They bask to regulate their internal temperatures. These are active during night. They look slow but can move very quickly when attacking their prey. Habitat loss is the biggest threat to Crocodiles.

Turtles and tortoises are another group of reptiles. Turtle lives in the water and a tortoise lives on land but both lay eggs on the ground. A tortoise has a dome shaped shell with short and sturdy feet. Its legs are bent, instead of being straight and directly under the body. A turtle has a flat streamlined shell with webbed feet and long claws. The lifespan of a turtle is between 20-30 years while the tortoise can

live up to 100 years, some individuals have been recorded to live up to 150 years. India has 28 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises. Unregulated trade for food and medicinal use are the biggest threats to this group.

About 265 species of reptiles have now been recorded from the Western Ghats of India with 66% of these species being completely restricted to this distinct mountain range. In a recent assessment of the reptiles of India, 28 species were found to be threatened.

The risk of extinction of a species is assessed according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. As such, the categories of threat reflect the risk of extinction in a species. A species assessed as 'Critically Endangered' is considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. A species assessed as 'Endangered' is considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. A species assessed as 'Vulnerable' is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. All taxa assessed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable are described as 'threatened'. To distinguish between the three threatened categories, there are five criteria with quantitative thresholds reflecting biological indicators of populations threatened with extinction.



IUCN Red List Categories at a global level

COLUBRIDAE
*Ahaetulla perroteti*¹¹



Western Ghats Bronzeback
Endemic to Southern Western Ghats

*Dryocalamus gracilis*¹⁴



Scarce Bridal Snake
Found in India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka

*Rhabdops olivaceus*¹⁷



Olive Forest Snake
Endemic to Western Ghats

PSAMMOPHIIDAE
*Psammophis longifrons*¹²



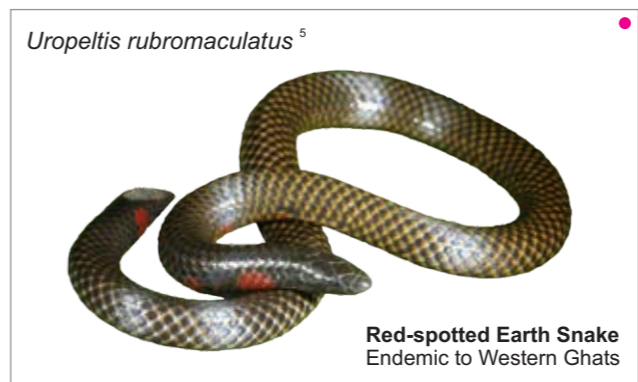
Stout Sand Snake
Endemic to India

*Platyplectrurus madurensis*²⁰



Madurai Shieldtail
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Uropeltis rubromaculatus*⁵



Red-spotted Earth Snake
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Coluber gracilis*¹²



Graceful Racer
Endemic to India

Elachistodon westermanni^{6, 15, 16}



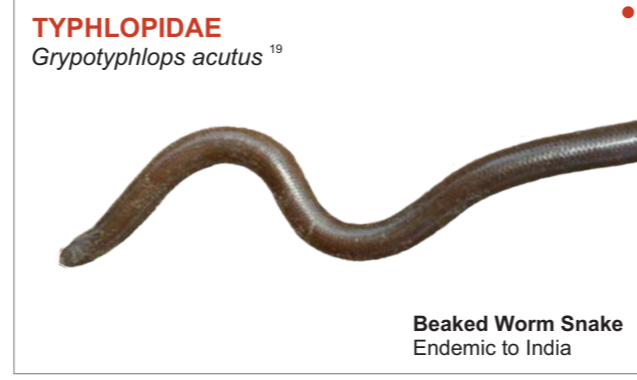
Indian Egg-eater
Endemic to India, Nepal

ELAPIDAE
*Calliophis nigrescens*⁶



Striped Coral Snake
Endemic to India

TYPHLOPIDAE
*Grypotyphlops acutus*¹⁹



Beaked Worm Snake
Endemic to India

*Plectrurus perroteti*¹



Nilgiri Burrowing Snake
Endemic to Western Ghats

VIPERIDAE
*Peltopelorus macrolepis*¹⁸



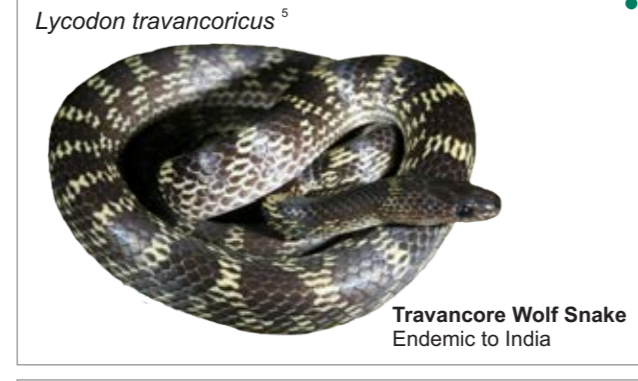
Large-scaled Pit Viper
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Coronella brachyura*¹⁰



Indian Smooth Snake
Endemic to India

*Lycodon travancoricus*⁵



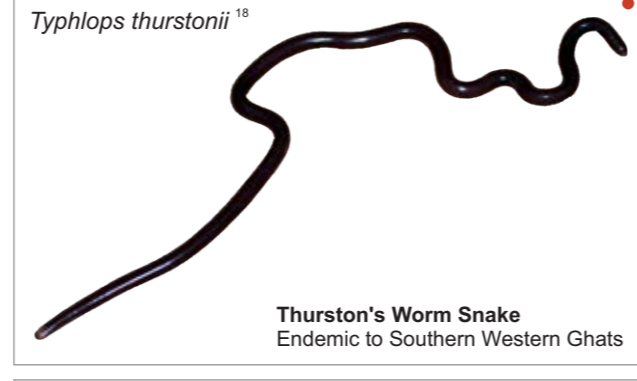
Travancore Wolf Snake
Endemic to India

GERRHOPILIDAE
*Gerrhopilus beddomii*¹⁸



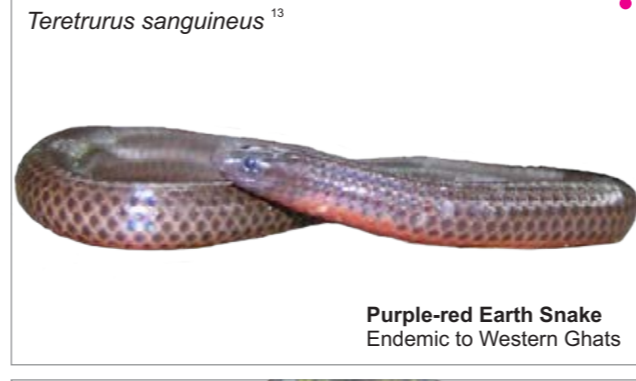
Beddome's Worm Snake
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Typhlops thurstonii*¹⁸



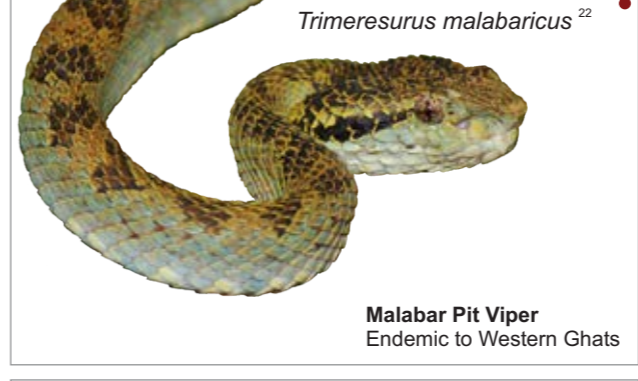
Thurston's Worm Snake
Endemic to Southern Western Ghats

*Teretrurus sanguineus*¹³



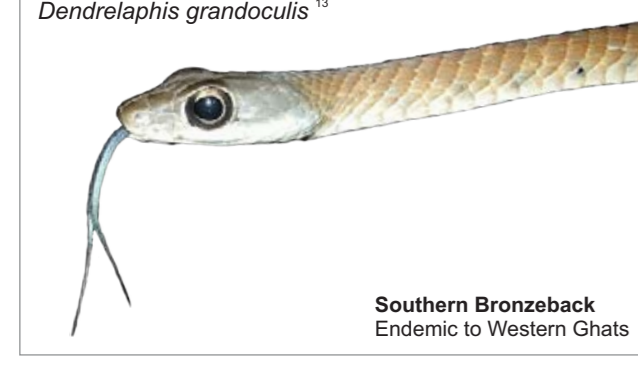
Purple-red Earth Snake
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Trimeresurus malabaricus*²²



Malabar Pit Viper
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Dendrelaphis grandoculis*¹³



Southern Bronzeback
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Oligodon brevicauda*¹³



Short-tailed Kukri Snake
Endemic to Southern Western Ghats

NATRICIDAE
*Amphiesma monticola*¹⁸



Hill Keelback
Endemic to Western Ghats

UROPELTIDAE
*Melanophidium punctatum*²



Beddome's Black Earth Snake
Endemic to Western Ghats

*Uropeltis phipsonii*²¹



Phipson's Shieldtail
Endemic to Western Ghats

XENODERMATIDAE
*Xylophis perroteti*⁵



Striped Narrow-headed Snake
Endemic to Western Ghats

Endemic Reptiles of the Peninsular India

AGAMIDAE		SCINCIDAE		PSAMMOPHIIDAE	
<i>Calotes aurantolabium</i>	DD	<i>Barkudia insularis</i>	DD	<i>Psammophis longifrons</i>	LC
<i>Calotes ellioti</i>	LC	<i>Barkudia melanosticta</i>	DD	TYPHLOPIDAE	
<i>Calotes grandisquamis</i>	LC	<i>Chalcides pentadactylus</i>	DD	<i>Grypotyphlops acutus</i>	LC
<i>Calotes nemoricola</i>	LC	<i>Eurylepis pooanaensis</i>	EN	<i>Typhlops exiguus</i>	DD
<i>Calotes rouxii</i>	LC	<i>Eutropis allapallensis</i>	LC	<i>Typhlops pammeceus</i>	LC
<i>Draco dussumieri</i>	LC	<i>Eutropis gansi</i>	DD	<i>Typhlops thurstonii</i>	DD
<i>Otocryptis beddomii</i>	EN	<i>Eutropis innotata</i>	DD	UROPELTIDAE	
<i>Psammophilus blanfordianus</i>	LC	<i>Eutropis nagarjuni</i>	NT	<i>Brachyophidium rhodogaster</i>	LC
<i>Psammophilus dorsalis</i>	LC	<i>Eutropis trivittata</i>	LC	<i>Melanophidium bilineatum</i>	VU
<i>Salea anamallayana</i>	LC	<i>Kaestlea beddomei</i>	LC	<i>Melanophidium punctatum</i>	LC
<i>Salea horsfeldi</i>	LC	<i>Kaestlea laterimaculata</i>	VU	<i>Melanophidium wynaudense</i>	LC
GEKKONIDAE		<i>Kaestlea palnica</i>	DD	<i>Platyplectrurus madurensis</i>	EN
<i>Calodactylodes aureus</i>	LC	<i>Lygosoma ashwamedhi</i>	VU	<i>Platyplectrurus trilineatus</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis australis</i>	DD	<i>Lygosoma goaensis</i>	DD	<i>Plectrurus aureus</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis beddomei</i>	DD	<i>Lygosoma guentheri</i>	LC	<i>Plectrurus canarius</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis goaensis</i>	EN	<i>Lygosoma lineata</i>	LC	<i>Plectrurus guentheri</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis gracilis</i>	LC	<i>Lygosoma pruthi</i>	DD	<i>Plectrurus perroteti</i>	LC
<i>Cnemaspis heteropholis</i>	NT	<i>Lygosoma vosmaeri</i>	DD	<i>Rhinophis fergusonianus</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis indica</i>	VU	<i>Ristella beddomii</i>	LC	<i>Rhinophis sanguineus</i>	LC
<i>Cnemaspis indraneildasi</i>	VU	<i>Ristella guentheri</i>	DD	<i>Rhinophis travancoricus</i>	EN
<i>Cnemaspis jerdonii</i>	VU	<i>Ristella rurkii</i>	DD	<i>Teretrurus sanguineus</i>	LC
<i>Cnemaspis kolhapurensis</i>	DD	<i>Ristella travancorica</i>	DD	<i>Uropeltis arcticeps</i>	LC
<i>Cnemaspis littoralis</i>	DD	COLUBRIDAE		<i>Uropeltis beddomii</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis monticola</i>	DD	<i>Ahaetulla dispar</i>	NT	<i>Uropeltis bicatenata</i>	NT
<i>Cnemaspis mysoriensis</i>	LC	<i>Ahaetulla perroteti</i>	EN	<i>Uropeltis broughami</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis nairi</i>	NT	<i>Boiga dightoni</i>	DD	<i>Uropeltis ceylanicus</i>	LC
<i>Cnemaspis nilagrica</i>	DD	<i>Coluber bholanathi</i>	DD	<i>Uropeltis dindigalensis</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis ornata</i>	NT	<i>Coluber gracilis</i>	DD	<i>Uropeltis ellioti</i>	LC
<i>Cnemaspis otai</i>	VU	<i>Coronella brachyura</i>	DD	<i>Uropeltis liura</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis sisparensis</i>	NT	<i>Dendrelaphis ashoki</i>	LC	<i>Uropeltis macrolepis</i>	LC
<i>Cnemaspis wynadensis</i>	EN	<i>Dendrelaphis chairecacos</i>	LC	<i>Uropeltis macrorhynchus</i>	DD
<i>Cnemaspis yercaudensis</i>	LC	<i>Dendrelaphis girii</i>	DD	<i>Uropeltis myhendrae</i>	DD
<i>Cyrtodactylus nebulosus</i>	LC	<i>Dendrelaphis grandoculis</i>	LC	<i>Uropeltis nitidus</i>	DD
<i>Geckoella albofasciatus</i>	LC	<i>Lycodon flavomaculatus</i>	LC	<i>Uropeltis ocellatus</i>	LC
<i>Geckoella collegalensis</i>	LC	<i>Lycodon travancoricus</i>	LC	<i>Uropeltis petersi</i>	DD
<i>Geckoella deccanensis</i>	LC	<i>Oligodon affinis</i>	LC	<i>Uropeltis phipsonii</i>	VU
<i>Geckoella jeyporensis</i>	CR	<i>Oligodon brevicauda</i>	LC	<i>Uropeltis pulneyensis</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus aaronbaueri</i>	LC	<i>Oligodon nikhili</i>	VU	<i>Uropeltis rubrolineatus</i>	DD
<i>Hemidactylus albofasciatus</i>	VU	<i>Oligodon travancoricus</i>	DD	<i>Uropeltis rubromaculatus</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus anamallensis</i>	NT	<i>Oligodon venustus</i>	DD	<i>Uropeltis smithi</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus giganteus</i>	LC	<i>Rhabdops olivaceus</i>	LC	<i>Uropeltis woodmasoni</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus gracilis</i>	LC	ELAPIDAE		VIPERIDAE	
<i>Hemidactylus graniticulus</i>	LC	<i>Calliophis beddomei</i>	DD	<i>Peltopelorus macrolepis</i>	NT
<i>Hemidactylus gujaratensis</i>	VU	<i>Calliophis nigriscens</i>	LC	<i>Trimeresurus gramineus</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus maculatus</i>	LC	GERRHOPILIDAE		<i>Trimeresurus malabaricus</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus porbadarensis</i>	DD	<i>Gerrhopilus beddomii</i>	DD	<i>Trimeresurus strigatus</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus prashadi</i>	LC	<i>Gerrhopilus tindali</i>	DD	XENODERMATIDAE	
<i>Hemidactylus reticulatus</i>	LC	NATRICIDAE		<i>Xylophis captaini</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus satarensis</i>	VU	<i>Amphiesma beddomei</i>	LC	<i>Xylophis perroteti</i>	LC
<i>Hemidactylus treutleri</i>	LC	<i>Amphiesma monticola</i>	LC	<i>Xylophis stenorhynchus</i>	DD
<i>Hemiphyllocladactylus aurantiacus</i>	LC	LACERTIDAE			
<i>Ophisops microlepis</i>	LC				

Red List Categories: EX-Extinct; EW-Extinct in the Wild; CR-Critically Endangered; EN-Endangered; VU-Vulnerable; NT-Near Threatened; LC-Least Concern; DD-Data Deficient.