

New Record of Banded Krait (*Bungarus Fasciatus*) In Etturmagaram Wildlife Sancturay of Warangal District, Telangana State, India

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Abstract: Krait commonly inhabits the South Asian countries and is regarded as the most dangerous species of venomous snake in the Indian subcontinent. The banded krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*) of Southeast Asia grows to 2 meters (6.6 feet), and other species commonly reach more than a meter in length. All have bodies that are strongly triangular in cross-section. The present observation reports the presence of rare snake Banded Krait in the Etturmagaram, wildlife sanctuary of Warangal, District, Telangana, India. The snake weighed about 3 Kg with 6.033 feet length with 31 black and 30 yellow alternative bands. The back band were about 3 cm and yellow bands were 5cm width.

Keywords: Banded Krait, Endangered, Wildlife Sanctuary

I. Introduction

Snakes are limbless reptiles having an elongated body covered with scales which are arranged in rows. The form, structure and arrangement of these body scales are important for snake species identification. Snakes are different from birds and mammals in many ways (Chandra and Gajbe, 2005). They are vertebrate animals too (with an inner skeleton), but birds and mammals are warm-blooded animals which can maintain their body temperature stable despite changing temperatures in the environment. However, snakes are cold-blooded animals and under normal circumstances they have to regulate their body temperature by choosing appropriate places in their environment (e.g., by sun bathing or hiding in holes), so they are very sensitive to weather and climatic changes and other ecological or environmental conditions (Sharma, *et.al*, 2013). There are more than 3400 different species of snake on earth. Snakes can be found on all continents except Antarctica, and they have conquered the most divergent environments from the mountains of the Himalayas to the coral reefs of the Pacific Ocean. There are snakes that spend all of their life in the water, others that live underground in holes and burrows that they or other animals have dug, and yet others that spend their lives high up in the canopy of trees (Agrawal, 1981).

Most species of snake are harmless for humans. Many have no venom at all, and they either kill their prey by constriction or by pressing it to the ground, or simply swallow it alive. Many others produce secretions in specialized oral glands that help them to immobilize, kill and/or digest their prey and to act against harmful bacteria (Ingle, M. 2003.). From a biological point of view, these oral gland secretions are usually called venoms (and the glands in which they are produced, venom glands) if the snakes use them to quickly immobilize or kill their natural prey. This is usually achieved if the snakes do not only have toxic oral gland secretions, but also an effective venom apparatus to deliver these into their prey or enemy. The teeth of snakes play a key role in this (Sharma, 2003).

Krait commonly inhabits the South Asian countries and is regarded as the most dangerous species of venomous snake in the Indian subcontinent (Francis et al 2011). Krait (genus *Bungarus*), any of 12 species of highly venomous snakes belonging to the cobra family (Elapidae). Kraits live in Asian forests and farmland from Pakistan to southern China and southward into Indonesia. They are terrestrial, feeding mainly on other snakes but also on frogs, lizards, and small mammals. Kraits are nocturnal hunters and are dangerous to humans only when stepped on or otherwise strongly provoked (Kalairasan *et.al* 1991).

The banded krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*) of Southeast Asia grows to 2 meters (6.6 feet), and other species commonly reach more than a meter in length. All have bodies that are strongly triangular in cross-section. Some are boldly colored in bands of black and white or yellow; others are dark-bodied with a brightly colored (often red) head and tail. Kraits lay eggs in clutches of 2–14, depending on the species (Chakraborty et al 2008).

Identification

Identification of the snake were done by the photographic hand book compiled by Sharma, et.al (2013).

II. New report

The present observation reports the presence of rare snake Banded Krait in the Etturagaram, wildlife sanctuary of Warangal, District, Telangana, India. The snake was found dead and slightly decayed in the roadside (the road which leads to Kannigudem from Etturagaram). The both sides of the road were thickly populated with herbs and shrubs. The snake weighed about 3 Kg with 6.033 feet length with 31 black and 30 yellow alternative bands. The back band were about 3 cm and yellow bands were 5cm width. The snake found and reported by Mr. Justin (Headmaster CSI English medium School, Kannaigudem), Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Rojesh (Teachers, CSI English Medium School, Etturagaram) and was collected by Rev. Dr. J.W.Prakash (author of this article). The snake is preserved in the Bishop Jesudasan Junior college for the future references.(Fig.3.)

III. Geography of the Location

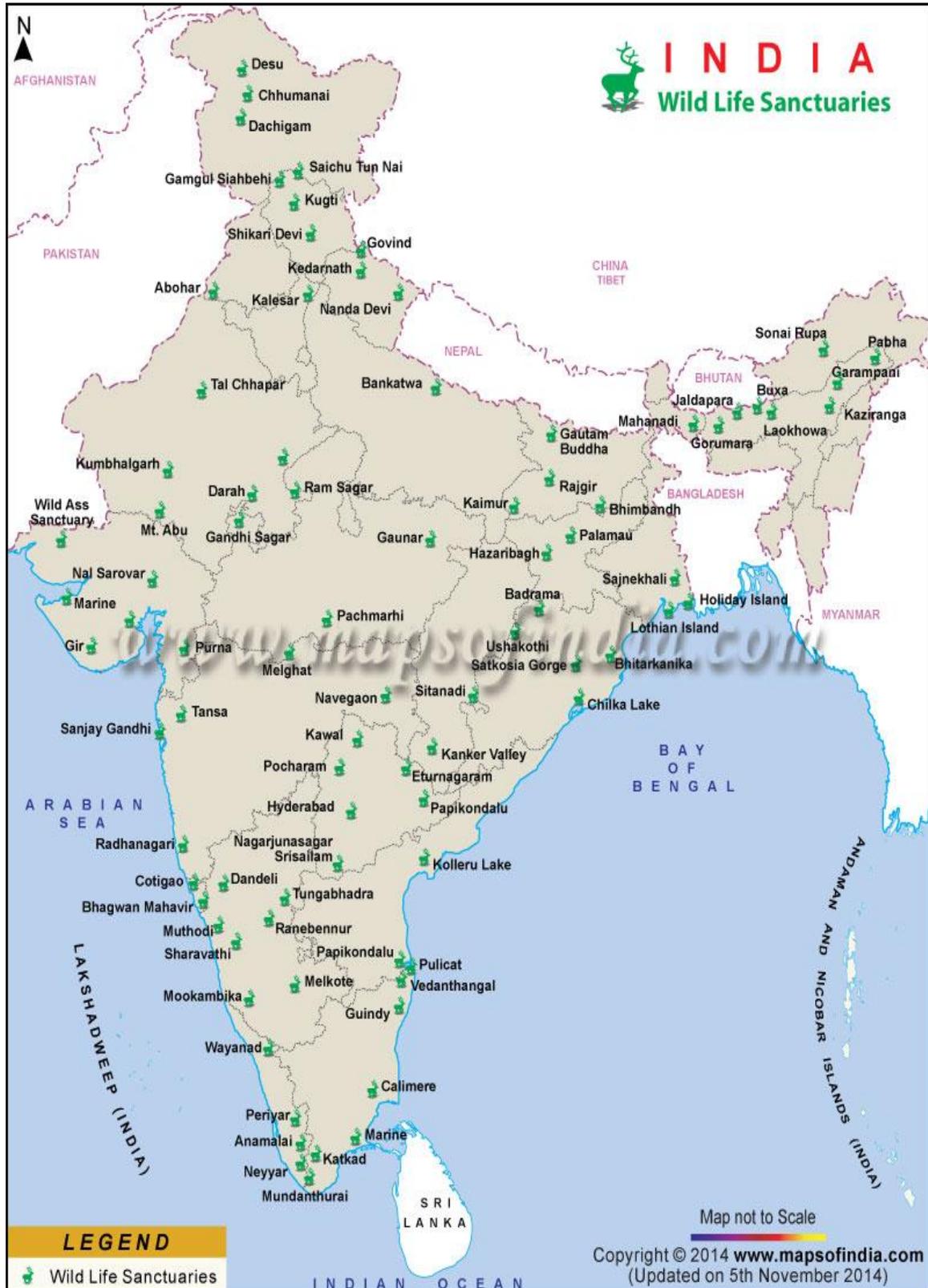
The Etturagaram wildlife sanctuary is located in the Warangal District of Telangana State. (Map.1.)The location which the snake found lies between 17°29'16" and 18°36'20"N and 78°49'49" and 80°40'13"E. The division has a geographical area of 8,687.81 km² which is 67.6% of the total area of the district (12,847 km²). Elevation is between 266 and 518 m, with a general SE slope along which surplus waters drain into the river Godavari. The climate is tropical, generally dry with temperature ranging from 15°C to 45°C and annual rainfall of 1182 mm, received mainly through south-west monsoon. Soils are primarily black cotton, loamy, sandy, and red chalaka. The area under forest cover is 2,310 km², 27% of the total geographical area of the division. The forest canopy density categories are moderately dense forest (953 km²), open forest (1015 km²), scrub (91 km²), and non-forest (244 km²). The forest division has six ranges: Bhupalapally North, Etturagaram, Tadvai, Pasra, Mulugu, and Warangal. The snake observed area is in Tadvai and Etturagaram ranges which include Etturagaram Wildlife Sanctuary. (Map.2)

IV. Conclusion

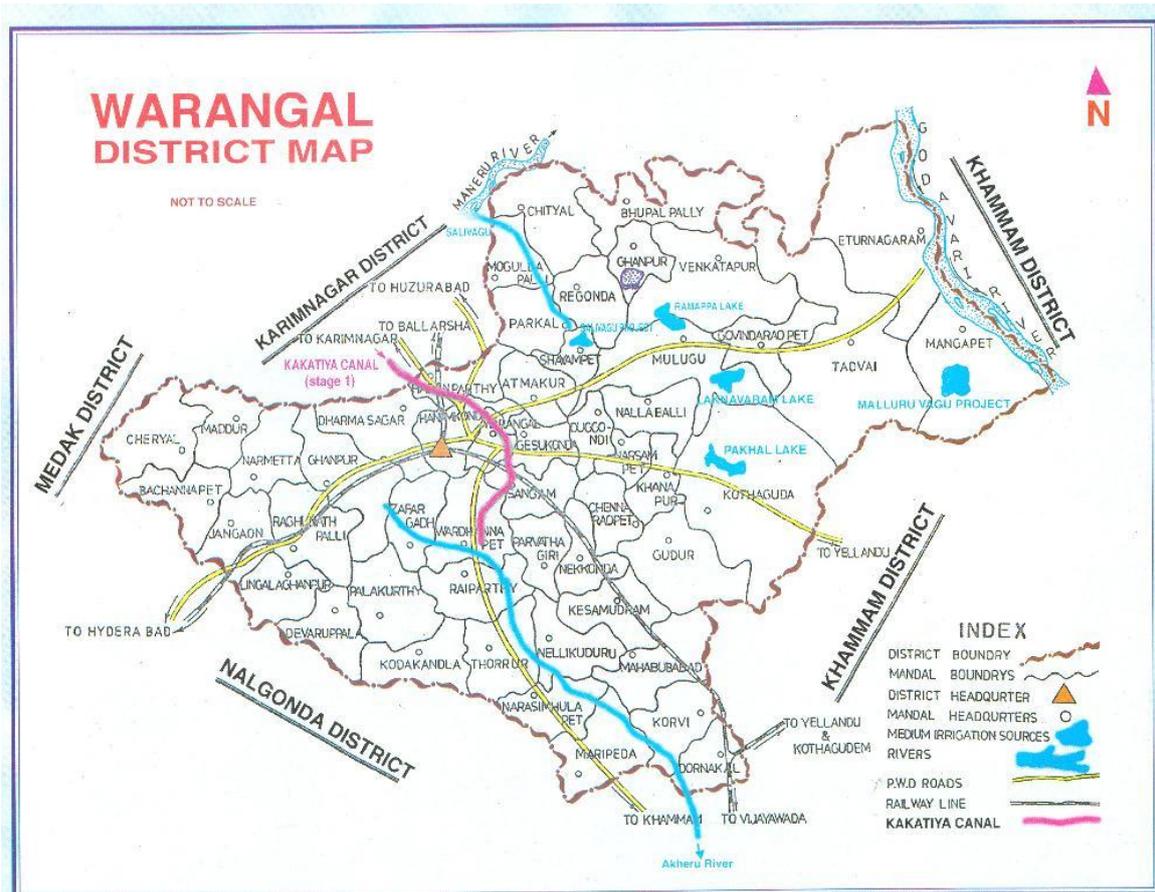
The rare snake is the gift of this wildlife sanctuary. The banded krait should be protected by aware society about the importance of the endemic, endangered and rare species preserved in the Etturagaram wildlife sanctuary. Apart from that the road riders should be careful to avoid the accidents with these animals (Fig.3). The author is propose to have sign boards in the sanctuary area especially the areas having such rare animals.

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Map.1: Map showing wildlife sanctuaries in India



Map.2 Map of Warangal District





Fig.1&2: Banded Krait (*Bungarus Fasciatus*) In Etturagaram Wildlife Sanctuary



Fig.3: Banded Krait (*Bungarus Fasciatus*) found dead in Road Accident In Etturagaram Wildlife Sanctuary (Etturagaram –Kamalapuram Road)

Original Report Certificate

I, Rev. Dr.J.W.Prakash, affirms that, the report with the title “New Record of Banded Krait (*Bungarus Fasciatus*) In Etturagaram Wildlife Sanctuary of Warangal District, Telangana State, India is an original finding submitting for the publication. This report has not been send to any other publication.

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