

# YELLOW-SPOTTED WOLF SNAKE

New locality record of *Lycodon flavomaculatus* Wall, 1907 from Telangana, India



A - Full body - dorsal view; B - Head close-up - dorsal aspect;  
C - Head close-up - lateral aspects; D - Full body - ventral view

IUCN Red List:  
Least Concern  
(Srinivasulu et al. 2013)

**Reptilia**  
[Class of Reptiles]

**Squamata**  
[Order of Scaled Reptiles]

**Colubridae**  
[Family of Snakes]

***Lycodon flavomaculatus***  
[Yellow-spotted Wolf Snake]

Species described by Wall in 1907

Yellow-spotted Wolf Snake *Lycodon flavomaculatus* Wall, 1907 is endemic to India with confirmed records from Dharwad, Karnataka; Sangli, Pune, and Nashik, Maharashtra (Wall 1907); Buldhana and Vidarbha, Maharashtra (Wall 1923); Amravati and Melghat, Maharashtra (Pradhan 2005; Nande & Deshmukh 2007); Raigarh, Chattisgarh (Walmiki et al., 2011); Satara, Maharashtra (Chikane & Bhosale 2012); Solapur, Maharashtra (Srinivasulu et al. 2014); Nagpur, Maharashtra (Deshmukh et al. 2015); Bhanvagar and Vadodara, Gujarat (Vyas & Upadhaya 2008); Balaghat and Mandla, Madhya Pradesh and Sarguja, Chattisgarh (Srinivasulu et al. 2014); Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh (Sharma et al. 2015);

Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu (Melvinselvan et al. 2016); Belgaon, Adilabad, Telangana (current report).

On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at 20:00hr, Mr. Sarpatwar Shreyash, a member of the “Friends of Snakes Society”, came across a dead snake at Belgaon, Jainath Mandal, Adilabad (19.7303°N & 78.6947°E, 219m). The locals confirmed that this specimen was killed as it had wandered into a household. The locality was primarily dry, surrounded by black and red soils, with predominant cultivation of cotton and soybean. The specimen was examined and identified as *Lycodon flavomaculatus* Wall, 1907, based on the morphological characters

**Global Distribution:**

Endemic to India (Smith, 1943; Whitaker & Captain, 2004; Melvinselvan et al. 2016)



**Few locality records.**

- - Type locality (Dharwad, Karnataka)
- - Closest record to the present (Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- ▲ - Present record (Belgaon, Adilabad)

as defined by Whitaker and Captain (2004). Neither, the morphometric measurements were recorded nor the individual's sex could be determined due to advanced stages of decomposition.

This is the first record of *L. flavomaculatus* from the state of Telangana. The previous closest locality record of this species is Nagpur, Maharashtra (Deshmukh et al. 2015), which is at a geodesic distance of 172km from the current locality.

The dorsum had shiny, dark brown scales with contrasting yellow spots along the mid-dorsum, from the cervical region to the tail tip. Each yellow spot laterally descends into white triangular patches, of decreasing prominence from anterior to the posterior body. Further, due to advanced stages of decomposition, the outer-most layer near the cervical region peeled out while handling, revealing white spots underneath, instead of yellow. The supralabials and the ventral scales were glossy white. Retrievable pholidosis - dorsal scales - 17 rows (distance of a head-length at the neck); ventrals - 170+ (approximate); subcaudals - 54 (paired); anal scale - divided; supralabials - 9 (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in contact with the eye); preocular - 1; postocular - 2; loreal - 1.

Over a century since its discovery, only twenty documented records of *L. flavomaculatus* exist. A thorough scientific assessment is required to establish a more explicit range and habits of this species.



## References

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