

Further Notes on Breeding Habits of Indian Bridal Snake *Dryocalamus nympha* (Daudin, 1803) from Coromandel Coastal Plains, South India

Krishnakumar BM* and Muthamizh Selvan K

Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, 605014, India

The Indian Bridal snake *Dryocalamus nympha* is semi-arboreal, nocturnal colubrid with a distribution ranging from Kerala in the West to Orissa in the East and Sri Lanka [1-3]. Despite being it wide-spread, knowledge about reproduction of the species is scarce. Very little is known about its breeding ecology until the recent observation on it courtship [4]. Herein we provide an additional description on the clutch size of bridal snake in the wild.

On 8th August 2015, a snake with eggs was sighted by laborers when they were picking up brick piles in the human settlement at Auroville. As we received a telephonic call from them, we immediately went to the site to identify them. It was bridal snake along with a clutch of three elliptic eggs with a leathery shell (Figure 1). Auroville is human settlement area situated in Coromandel coastal plains (N 11°59'43.45" E 79°49'23.31" elev. 155). The vegetation of this coastal region has been defined as the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF) [5]. The minimum and maximum temperature of this area are 29°C to 39°C respectively and receive 1300 mm annual rainfall during the months of October, November through the North East monsoon.

Slough of bridal snake also was observed from the site of ovi position. Out of three eggs, two were sticking to each other and they were not adhered to substrate at their laying site. The adult (SVL=450 mm and TL=65 mm) was briefly examined for species identification. Due to want of permit, the eggs were could not be retained in the captivity to document incubation and hatching details. The details of eggs appearing in (Table 1)

The maximum length of this snake including tail is 520 mm [1]; the length is not too varied from the observed female. Therefore, the average clutch size of the bridal snake would be three. This observation shed light on the clutch size of the bridal snake. Despite little information regarding courtship behavior and clutch size, further observation needed to better understand the incubation period, the role of temperature, color patterns, the sex ratio of neonates and their size of this rare species.



Figure 1: Clutch of three eggs.

Egg Number	Length	Width	Annotations
1	21	8	Wrinkled and decayed
2	27	9	Partially wrinkled and compressed well
3	28	7	Smooth but compressed

Table 1: Morphometrics details of eggs (Length and width are in millimeters).

References

- Whitaker R, Captain A (2008) Snakes of India, The Field Guide. Chengalpattu, Draco Books.
- Das I, De Silva A (2005) A photographic guide to snake and other reptiles of Sri Lanka. New Holland Publisher, UK.
- Smith MA (1943) The Fauna of British India: Reptilia and Amphibia, including the whole of the Indo-Chinese region. Serpentes. Vol. III. London, Taylor and Francis.
- Krishnakumar BM (2014) First observation on breeding habits of Indian Bridal Snake *Dryocalamus nympha* (Daudin, 1803). Herpetol Notes 7: 337–338.
- Champion HG, Seth SK (1968) A revised survey of the forest types of India. Government of India Press, New Delhi, India, p: 404.

*Corresponding author: Krishnakumar BM, Department of Ecology & Environmental Science, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, 605014, India, Tel: +91-9626330677; E-mail: krishnakumarnympha@gmail.com

Received May 02, 2016; Accepted May 02, 2016; Published May 04, 2016

Citation: Krishnakumar BM, Selvan KM (2016) Further Notes on Breeding Habits of Indian Bridal Snake *Dryocalamus nympha* (Daudin, 1803) from Coromandel Coastal Plains, South India. Entomol Ornithol Herpetol 5: e120. doi:[10.4172/2161-0983.1000e120](https://doi.org/10.4172/2161-0983.1000e120)

Copyright: © 2016 Krishnakumar BM, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.