

# “A SURVEY ON DIVERSITY OF SNAKES FOUND IN AND AROUND DHANLAXMI NAGAR, PARBHANI, M.S. INDIA”.

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**ABSTRACT:** Snakes are abundant all over the world. Snakes are intrinsically fascinating and form an important component of the food chain. They play key ecological roles in controlling rodent pests, they maintain the nature and serve a lot to mankind. Depletion of these animals throughout the globe and their extinction causing a continuous and diligent task to the people of all spheres of the society to conserve them. A checklist of snakes is prepared from Dhanlakshmi nagar, Parbhani on the basis of the information collected from the survey during July 2017 to March 2018. The captured snakes represent 12 types of species under 5 families. In these families 5 were venomous snakes, 6 nonvenomous snakes. The present study is an attempt to evaluate the information of species richness and further assist in the knowledge, awareness and conservation of snake fauna in this region. So this survey may play a helpful role in conservation of the biodiversity.

**Keywords:** Snake, biodiversity, Venomous, Parbhani, India.

## INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity refers to the ecological richness of the community. India is the largest mega diverse developing country. It is well known for its biodiversity in plants, animals as well as culture. Species are the backbone of biology. Among vertebrates, reptiles are still poorly known and are highly threatened. Decline in population of reptiles is a major concern and causes of catastrophic decline are habitat loss, environmental pollution, lethal diseases, unsustainable use of natural resources and global climate change (Luiselli et al., 2020). Snakes are intrinsically fascinating and form an important component of the biotic. It is natural that their curious mode of propulsion, venom and contrasting mechanism have made them an important group of predators. Snakes have formed an object of a curiosity in all lands. Snakes play key ecological roles in controlling pests (Fitch 1949 & Gibbons 1988). Worldwide near about 3783 snake species are found of which 279 species of snake are found only in India (Janani et al. 2016) among this 80% snakes are non-poisonous (Kale et al., 2016) and poisonous snakes include about 58 species of which only 4 species of snakes are dangerous to human (Jadhav et al., 2018). Depletion of these animals throughout the globe and their extinction causing a continuous and diligent task to the people of all spheres of the society to

conserve them. Diversity and distribution of snakes in India have been studied by many researcher some of them are Bansode et al. (2016),Janani et al.(2016), Manhas et al.(2016),Tambre et al. (2016), Joshi et al.(2017),Kale et al(2019),Pawar P.R. et al. (2020) etc. The present study is an attempt to evaluate the information, occurrence and species richness and further assist in the knowledge, awareness and conservation of snake fauna in Dhanlaxmi nagar where the B.Raghunath college is also situated.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Study area:

Dhanlakshmi nagar also known as Boralkar nagar is located in Prabhag no.12 of Parbhani city.The parbhani city is located at 19.27<sup>0</sup> N 76.78<sup>0</sup>E .It's climate is classified as tropical.

**Method :** Study site were visited during dawn and dusk hours For collection of snake occurrence calls, well trained snake catcher or snake rescue calls and reports of accidental road kills these type of methods were used.

**Identification:** When snakes from different localities of Dhanlaxmi nagar had captured by snake rescues in the houses and were viewed during visits randomly after catching the snakes their characteristics ,predominant features were noted ,photographed and for correct identification of snake by books Daniel (2002),Whitaker(2006) were followed and some time with the help of snake experts or by local peoples. The captured snakes were released in their natural habitat with help of snake friends.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the present survey an attempt has been made to know the diversity of snake found in and around Dhanlakshmi Nagar,Parbhani.

This research work was carried out during the period of July 2017 to March 2018.During these months investigation 12 species of snake belonging to 5 families were recorded as family Colubridae 6 species, Elapidae 3 species and from Viperidae, Pythonidae and Boidae 1 species each respectively. Among these 12 snake species 5 species of poisonous and 7 species of non-poisonous snake were reported ( Table 1)

The study area has more vegetations plenty of water , agricultural land is near to this area which is suitable environmental conditions for habitat of snake but due to conversion of agricultural land into plotting area, ongoing construction of flat systems and homes will definitely show adverse effect on snake diversity in future.

Table 1: Different species of snakes found in and around Dhanlaxmi Nagar,Parbhani

Sr. No.	Nature	Name of Snake	Family	Genus	Species	Status
<b>A</b>	<b>Poisonous snakes</b>	Russells Viper-Daboia	Viperidae	Daboia	<i>D.russelii</i>	Common
1.		Indian spectacle cobra	Elapidae	Naja	<i>N.naja</i>	Rare
2.		Striped coral snake	Elapidae	Calliophis	<i>C.nigrescens</i>	Common
3.		Banded Krait	Elapidae	Bungarus	<i>B.fasciatus</i>	Common
4.		Forestens cat snake	Colubridae	Boiga	<i>Foresteni</i>	Common
<b>B</b>	<b>Non poisonous snake</b>	Indian rock python	Pythonidae	Python	<i>P.molurus</i>	Rare
1.		Common wolf snake	Colubridae	Lycodon	<i>L.capucinus</i>	Common
2.		Green Keelback	Colubridae	Macropisthod on	<i>M.plumbicolar</i>	Common
3.		Indian rat snake	Colubridae	Ptyas	<i>P.mucosa</i>	Common
4.		Banded racer	Colubridae	Argyrogena	<i>A.fasciolata</i>	Common
5.		Striped Keelback	Colubridae	Xenochrophis	<i>X.vittatus</i>	Common
6.		Red sand boa	Boidae	Eryx	<i>E.johnii</i>	Common

## CONCLUSION

The study area with lush green vegetation, more water supply forms a suitable habitat for other reptiles also but now they are under threat due to infrastructural development in these area .Presently many snakes have made their appearance in and around study area with proximity to human population due to loss of natural habitats and changing environmental conditions.

Under development strategy as a destruction of natural habitat and prey, snakes have to move outside and due to fear of these animal in common people often snakes leads to death .Therefore the present study shows necessity of continuous monitoring and systematic study of these animals including their protection measures

.It is also important to create awareness among local peoples to conserve these important group of animal in future is an urgent need of time.

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