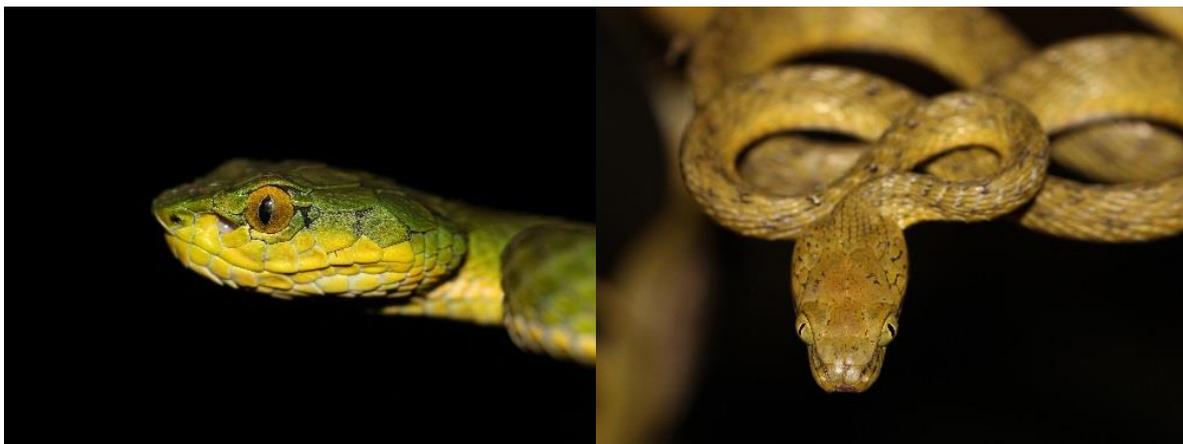


Project Update: June 2017

We conducted three more surveys in September, October and November 2016 with fascinating results. We have, we believe a near complete checklist of herpetofauna from the Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary which includes a snake that has not been reported for the last ~ 150 years (a major rediscovery) and a first report of a caecilian from the landscape. Over the last few months we have been focussed on publishing some of these results. We have already submitted a manuscript titled " A new cryptic, rupicolous species of *Hemidactylus* Oken, 1817 (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Meghamalai, Tamil Nadu, India." with due credits to Rufford Small Grants. We are underway to preparing the complete checklist manuscript for Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary. We intend to publish a few more new species discoveries for the region including the rediscovery of a snake (*Xylophis* sp.) that has not been reported since its original discovery in 1878!

On another note, we are preparing the final report for the forest department including pamphlets to share with the local people and school children. We will be conducting awareness camps in the next couple of months in the region. One of the issues we noticed about the landscape was the presence of too many feral dogs that is seemingly affecting native wildlife. We are taking an initiative along with some local NGOs to neuter these ferals to put a cap on their proliferation.

Recent changes to the hierarchical structure of the Forest Department has inhibited us from travelling more often and meeting some of our project targets. As a result, I would like to request an extension of 6 months before we can submit the final report to Rufford Small Grants. This is after we accomplish all of our proposed goals and I hope that this will not cause much inconvenience. I hope to be in more regular communication with updates to our project.



Left: large scaled Pit Viper. Right: Green cat Snake.



Undescribed Caecilian



Geckoella