

Project Update: June 2017

The snake species diversity and distribution pattern was examined in southern foothills of Himalayan nation. We surveyed snakes along the elevation gradient (250–1000m) along the Mau river valley of Sarpang District of Bhutan, from June-September 2016 to April-June 2017 using time constrained visual encounter survey. A total of 17 species of snakes were observed during the study. Of which seven are non-venomous, three are mildly venomous, one venomous, and five are highly venomous.



Left: *Bungarus fasciatus*. Right: *Boiga multifaciata*

Table: List of snakes found during the study period.

Sl. No	Species Name	Common Name	Family	Venom status
1	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	Indian rat snake	Colubridae	Non-Venomous
2	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>	Tree snake	Colubridae	Non-Venomous
3	<i>Lycodon fasciatus</i>	Wolf snake	Colubridae	Non-Venomous
4	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	Vine snake	Colubridae	Non-Venomous
5	<i>Elaphe helena</i>	Trinket	Colubridae	Non-Venomous
6	<i>Elaphe radiata</i>	Copper head	Colubridae	Non-Venomous
8	<i>Amphiesma stolota</i>	Buffstriped	Colubridae	Non-Venomous
9	<i>Boiga multifaciata</i>	Banded cat snake	Colubridae	Mildly Venomous
10	<i>Boiga cyanea</i>	Green cat snake	Colubridae	Mildly Venomous
11	<i>Rhabdophis subminiatus</i>	Collared Keelback	Colubridae	Mildly Venomous
12	<i>Trimeresurus gramineus</i>	Bamboo pit viper	Viperdea	Venomous
13	<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	Banded krait	Elapidae	Highly Venomous
14	<i>Naja naja</i>	Spectacled cobra	Elapidae	Highly venomous
15	<i>Naja Kaouthia</i>	Monocelled cobra	Elapidae	Highly Venomous
16	<i>Bungarus niger</i>	Black Krait	Elapidae	Highly Venomous
17	<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>	King Cobra	Elapidae	Highly Venomous

We also collected some voucher specimens of medically significant species collected from study area for future reference. According to medical record and field investigation, the snake species such as spectacled cobra (*Naja naja*) and black krait (*Bungarus niger*) and monocled cobra (*Naja kaouthia*) are three important species causing potential threats to human health in this locality.



Left: *Boiga cyanea*. Right: *Rhabdophis subminiatus*



Left: *Nigro marginiata*. Right: *Elaphe helena*.