

## New Locality Record of Bombay Caecilian (*Ichthyophis bombayensis* Gymnophiona: Amphibia) from Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Tamil Nadu, Western Ghats, India

**Samson A\* and J Leona Princy**

Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College, Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India

\*Corresponding Author: Samson A, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College, Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India.

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Caecilians comprise one of the three surviving orders of amphibians. They are reported from several areas in Asia, Africa and South and Central America [1]. Due to burrowing, secretive and nocturnal inhabit, they are recorded in the field occasionally [2]. The Western Ghats of India is recognized as a world biodiversity hotspot and it is home for many Indian and regionally endemic species, especially amphibians including caecilians [3]. Caecilians are well explored in South and Central Western Ghats of India [4]. The present note describes the new locality record of *Ichthyophis bombayensis* from Tamil Nadu part of the Western Ghats.

Distribution and occurrences of Bombay Caecilian was widely reported in Western Ghats region such as Gujarat [5,6], Maharashtra [1,7-10], Karnataka [11-18], Goa [19,20], Kerala [21,22] and in Tamil Nadu [23]. On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017 07:10 AM we recorded a roadkill Bombay Caecilian from Theppakadu (N 11.57845° E 76.59435° Elevation 890 MSL), Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu, Western Ghats, India (Figure 1). The roadkill species was identified as *Ichthyophis bombayensis* using field guide [24] and research work with a photograph provided by Govindappa, et al. [20]. The total length of roadkill Bombay Caecilian was 150 mm. Distribution of Bombay Caecilian was reported in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu from the Western Ghats region. In Tamil Nadu a total of three *Ichthyophis* genus were reported namely *Ichthyophis beddome*, *Ichthyophis peninsularis* and *Ichthyophis tricolor* [24] and Subramanian, et al. [23] recently reported that total of two species of *Ichthyophis* genus was recorded in Tamil Nadu namely *Ichthyophis*

*beddome* and *Ichthyophis bombayensis*. Subramanian, et al. [23] record the *Ichthyophis bombayensis* from two localities one from Anamalai Hills south of the Palghat gap and the other one is near coastal areas of Trivandrum. The present record of *Ichthyophis bombayensis* from the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve shows the new locality record of *Ichthyophis bombayensis* from the Western Ghats region. Further studies are required to understand the better distribution of this species in Tamil Nadu state.



**Figure 1:** Roadkill Bombay Caecilian (*Ichthyophis bombayensis*) from Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Tamil Nadu, Western Ghats, India.

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