

## Two snakes new to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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The list of reptilians known from Andamans and Nicobars continued to grow with almost every collection made on these islands. An examination of the unnamed reptile holdings of the Zoological Survey of India at Port Blair, revealed the existence of two species of snakes that are hitherto unreported from the Bay Islands. They are *Boiga cyaneum* from the Nicobars and *Microcephalophis cantoris* from the Andamans, as reported in the present article

***Boiga cyaneum*** (Dum., Bibr. & Dum., 1854)

*Triglyphodon cyaneum* Dumeril, Bibron & Dumeril, 1854. *Erp. Gen.* vii, Part ii : 1079 (Type locality : Unknown).

**Material examined :** One example (ZSI-8513), Galathea, Great Nicobar, Coll. 10.2:1994, D. V. Rao.

**Measurements :** Snout-vent length 49.5 cm, total body length 63.3 cm, tail length 13.8 cm, head length 17.5 cm, head width 12.2 cm, body width 10.7 cm, eye diameter 4.3 cm.

**Pholidosis :** Midbody scale rows : 26 : 21 : 13, ventrals 238, subcaudals 104, anal 1, temporals 3+2, supralabials 9 (IV-VI touch the eyes), infralabials 10 (I-VII touch chin shields), preocular/1/reaches the upper surface of head.

**Remarks :** In live condition, colour of the body was coral red, but on preservation in formalin, it turned pinkish-brown. However, no transverse bars on the back are present. The ventral count of 238 in the present specimen is lower than the range of 259-267 given by Smith (1943), but falls within that of 237-258 given by Taylor (1965).

**Distribution :** *Boiga cyaneum* is known from Tindhara in northern West Bengal, Sikkim and Assam within Indian limits, south-east-wards to Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Thus, the present species may be considered an Indo-Chinese element in the fauna of the Nicobar Islands.

***Microcephalophis cantoris*** Guenther, 1864. *Rept. Brit. Ind.* : 374. (Type locality : "Penang").

**Material examined :** One example (ZSI-161) Shoal Bay, South Andaman, Coll. 27. 4. 1978, S. Chakrapani and party.

**Measurements :** Snout-vent length 90.3 cm, total body length 98.8 cm, tail length 8.5 cm, head length 9.9 cm, head width 0.6 cm, body width 2.89 cm, eye diameter 2.2 mm.

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