

A Case of Albinism in Common Wolf Snake *Lycodon Aulicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) from Chalisgaon Tehsil, Dist. Jalgaon, Maharashtra

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Manuscript details:	ABSTRACT
<p>Available online on http://www.ijlsci.in</p> <p>ISSN: 2320-964X (Online) ISSN: 2320-7817 (Print)</p> <p>Editor: Dr. Arvind Chavhan</p> <p>Cite this article as: Thombre R and Dhande Abhishek R (2015) A Case of Albinism in Common Wolf Snake <i>Lycodon Aulicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) from Chalisgaon Tehsil, Dist. Jalgaon, Maharashtra, <i>International J. of Life Sciences</i>, Special issue, A3: 107-108.</p> <p>Copyright: © Author, This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial - No Derives License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.</p>	<p>Through this manuscript, a case of albinism in common wolf snake <i>Lycodon aulicus</i> is documented. Given albino individual was spotted/found in Patna village of Chalisgaon Tehsil in 2014. This manuscript also discusses the reasons of albinism and previous cases of albinism in <i>Lycodon aulicus</i> in Maharashtra.</p> <p>Keywords: Albinism, <i>Lycodon aulicus</i> , Common Wolf snake, Chalisgaon, Maharashtra</p> <p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The phenomenon in which the melanin pigment on the body is absent is termed as albinism. It may be partial or totally depending on the extend pigment is absent. Albinism is a genetic disorder which is caused by single mutation which actually stops the formation of tyrosinase, an enzyme that changes tyrosine into a compound that eventually gives rise to melanin (Singh & Mohnot, 2009).</p> <p>The albinism in snakes has been reported in many species from India and other parts of the world. The albinism in snakes for example in countries other than India, have been reported in <i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i> (Walkins-Colwell, 2002), <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> (Mitchell & Mcgranahan, 2004); <i>Coluber logisimis</i>, <i>Coronella austriaca</i> and <i>Tropidonotus natrix</i> (Boulenger, 2000). In India albinism has been described in <i>Python molurus</i> (Lahiri, 1955), <i>Eryx conicus</i> (Whitaker, 1971); <i>Naja naja</i> (Kumar, 1988), <i>Oliodon arnensis</i>, <i>Coleognathus helena</i> (Vyas, 2012), <i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i> (Sayyad, 2012; Hoshing <i>et al.</i>, 2013), <i>Gongylophis conicus</i> (Jadhav & Mahabal, 2012) and in <i>Gryptotyphlops acutus</i> (Nivalkar <i>et al.</i>, 2012).</p> <p>In case of <i>Lycodon aulicus</i> albinism is reported in Maharashtra at two instances. In the first instance Hoshing <i>et al.</i> (2013) discussed an albino <i>Lycodon aulicus</i> with pink body and dark red bands. In another instance Bhutkar and Mahabal (2014) described an albino <i>Lycodon aulicus</i> with purple blue body, white cross bar with unusual patterns, pink patches on sides, eyes pinkish red suggesting it as total albino.</p>



Fig. 1: An Partial Albino wolf snake *Lycodon aulicus* from Chalisgaon



Fig. 1: A Wolf Snake *Lycodon aulicus* with normal colouration

DISCUSSION

Through this note we describe another case of albinism in *Lycodon aulicus*. The *Lycodon aulicus*, commonly known as The Common Wolf Snake is a non-venomous snake from Family Colubridae. It is distributed in Sri Lanka, Indian subcontinent, Maldives, Myanmar, Indo-China, Malaya, Indonesia, Philippines (Daniel, 2002). Generally the colour of *Lycodon aulicus* is brown with transverse white bands with some dark brown spots on the bands. The first author spotted the snake at around 6 PM on January 1st, 2008 at the house of Mr. Anil Patil, Harigiribaba Nagar area of village Patna, tehsil Chalisgaon, and district Jalgaon. The surrounding area is an agro-ecosystem with sparse patches of dry and scrub vegetation and is near to Patnadevi Forest; the snake was photographed and released into the wild. In this case of albinism, the snake observed was having pink coloration, white cross bands with light brown spots on body and black eyes which clearly indicated that this albino is partial. Its length was 50cm approximately. Though it is very difficult for an albino individual of any species to survive in the wild as they are detected easily by their predators, the length of this individual suggests that albinos can also survive up till adulthood in the wild.

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