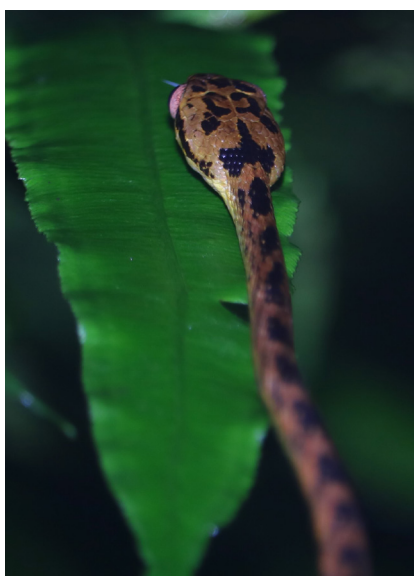


Additional distribution record for the Thackeray's Cat Snake from southern Western Ghats

Boiga is a genus of snakes with 35 species, out of which 17 are found in India (Uetz et al. 2021). The Thackeray's Cat Snake *Boiga thackerayi* is the second endemic snake to Western Ghats from the genus, first being *Boiga dightoni* (Giri et al. 2019).

The colubrid *Boiga thackerayi* was described in 2019 from Maharashtra. It is an arboreal snake, is active at night, and is the first known species of *Boiga* which feeds on frog eggs (Giri et al. 2019).

During a night trail on 31 October 2021 around 2140 h in Mojo Plantation spice farm, located near Galibeedu village, Kodagu district, Karnataka, we spotted an adult species of *B. thackerayi* (12.476N 75.709E; 1,100 m) of approximately 1 m long, at a height of about 1.5 m on a Cardamom plant *Elettaria cardamomum* which was right next to a pond. Several individuals of the charismatic Little Tree Frog *Rhacophorus lateralis*, endemic to Western Ghats, were also observed and on the Cardamom plants.



Dorsal view of head of Thackeray's Cat Snake *Boiga thackerayi* from Mojo plantation, Kodagu District, Karnataka, India.
© Arpan Joshi.



Side view of head of Thackeray's Cat Snake *Boiga thackerayi* from Mojo plantation, Kodagu District, Karnataka, India.
© Arpan Joshi.



Dorsal body of Thackeray's Cat Snake *Boiga thackerayi* from Mojo plantation, Kodagu District, Karnataka, India.
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Habitat at the site where the Thackerayi's Cat Snake was spotted at Mojo Plantation. © Ashritha Anoop.

The snake was found in a rain forest habitat with native trees which also had plantations of Black Pepper, Cardamom, Coffee, Vanilla, Cinnamon, Kokam, Ginger, Turmeric, Allspice, and other fruits and vegetables.

The snake was identified by the pattern and coloration. The snake had smooth scales with no keels or apical pits on the dorsal side. It was uniform brown in colour with dark blotches all over the dorsal body and paired subcaudals. We did not collect the specimen because we did not want to disturb the snake. Thus, the detailed scale count or any other identification method was not done.

Boiga thackerayi is distributed in the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala from the Western Ghats. This is an additional sighting from the state of Karnataka other than the locations listed in Ganesh et al. (2021).

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