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The confirmed record of *Oligodon albocinctus* (Cantor, 1839) from Bangladesh

Oligodon albocinctus (Cantor, 1839) has been recorded in Assam, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh of India, Nepal, Myanmar and China (Das *et al.*, 2009). Khan (1982, 2010) included this species as common and found in the north and east of Bangladesh. However Sarker & Sarker (1985, 1988) did not include this species in their checklists of the snakes of Bangladesh. The IUCN local red list (IUCN Bangladesh, 2003) included this species as data deficient. Khan (2008) stated that this species was expected to be found in Bangladesh. Kabir *et al.* (2009) included this species in the Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh based on IUCN Bangladesh (2003). However none of the previous reports were based on a specimen or photographic evidence, hence this is the first confirmed record of *Oligodon albocinctus* from Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, Bangladesh, with a specimen and photographs.

We conducted a survey as a part of the biodiversity monitoring from 25 July 2012 to 30 July 2012 in Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, Bangladesh. Surveys were conducted during the day and night to search for herpetofauna. An adult female specimen of *Oligodon albocinctus* (SVL 70 cm) (Fig. 1) was collected on 30 July 2012 at about 09:30 hr. from Jaldi Range (21º 59.408 N, 91º 58.954 E) of Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, Chittagong District. After overnight heavy rain, on a cloudy morning, the snake came out from the bushes and headed to water streams. It was photographed and then preserved in 70% ethanol. The specimen was deposited in the Wildlife Museum of the Department of Zoology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh under the catalogue number JUHG 00332 (Fig. 2). The photograph was deposited in the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore under the catalogue number ZRC (IMG) 2.173. Morphometric and meristic data were taken according to Neang *et al.* (2012) measurements and scale counts were taken under a 75mm magnifying lenses using a digital caliper to the nearest 0.1 mm. *Measurements*: SVL (snout–vent length), from the tip of the snout to the vent; HL (head length), from the tip of the snout to the posterior margin of the mandible; HD (head depth), vertical height between upper and ventral surfaces of head measured at HW; IO (interorbital distance), shortest distance between outer margins of supraoculars; ED (eye diameter), horizontal diameter of eye; SN (snout length), distance between the tip of the snout and anterior edge of eye; EN (eye to nostril), distance between anterior margin of eye and posterior margin of nostril; IN (inter–nostril distance), horizontal distance between nostrils. *Scale counts*: DOR, number of scale rows at one head length behind the head, at midbody and at one head length prior to the vent; VEN (ventral scales), number of scales from the one scale (excluding pre–ventral) posterior to gulars to the vent excluding anal plate; ANL (anal plate), number of terminal scales immediately anterior to vent; SUB (subcaudal scales), number of paired subcaudal scales excluding the terminal scute; SUP (supralabials), number of scales on upper lip; INF (infralabials), number of scales on lower lip; MAX (maxillary teeth); TEMP (temporal), number of scales on the side of the head between the parietal scales and the supralabial scales; BB (body bands), number of cross–bands across the back and down to the sides but not encircling the body; BT (bands on tail), number of cross–bands on the tail; SCB (number of scales in a longitudinal row covered by each band). Comparison with other similar species was based on Neang *et al.* (2012), David *et al.* (2008), Das (2002), Smith (1943), Whitaker & Captain (2004) and Kabir *et al.* (2009).

Figure 1: Live female *Oligodon albocinctus* (SVL 70 cm), collected at Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, Bangladesh (Cat. JUHG 00332)

The morphometric and meristic data confirm that the specimen was an adult female *Oligodon albocinctus* (Cantor, 1839) when compared with published literatures (Neang *et al*., 2012; David *et al.*, 2008; Das, 2002; Smith, 1943; Whitaker & Captain, 2004; Kabir *et al*., 2009). Body was comparatively robust with SVL 70.0 cm; tail was incomplete. It differed from the superficially similar *Oligodon kampucheaensis* (Neang *et al.*, 2012) by having DOR 19–19–17 instead of 15–15–15; VEN 194, SUB 50 and SUP–Eye 3+4 instead of 165, 39 and 4+5 respectively; and BB 26 instead of 17 (Table 1).

The specimen was reddish–brown with 26 yellowish dorsal cross–bands on body and 7 cross–bands on its incomplete tail. Head elongated and slightly flattened; HL 18.0 mm, HW 15.6 mm and HD 10.5 mm. Snout elongated; SnL 6.6 mm, EN 4.8 mm, ND 6.2 mm and IO 9.2 mm (Fig. 2).

Table 1: Comparison of morphological and color pattern characters of *Oligodon albocinctus* with *Oligodon kampucheaensis*. Additional abbreviations: RCB, reticulated black colored crossbars; ab, absent; –, not mentioned.

Characters	*O. albocinctus* (JUHG 00332)	*O. albocinctus* (Smith, 1943)	*O. kampucheaensis* (Neang et al., 2012)
SVL	70 cm	–	36.32 cm
SUP (touching eye)	7 (3/4)	7 (3/4)	8 (4/5)
INF	8	–	8
TEMP	1+2	1 (anterior)	1+2
DOR	19, 19, 17	–	15, 15, 15
VEN	194	177–208	165
SUB	50 + x	40–69	39
ANL	entire	–	entire
MAX	12	–	11
BB	26	19–27	17
BT	7	4–8	3
SCB	8	–	8–9
RCB	ab	–	ab

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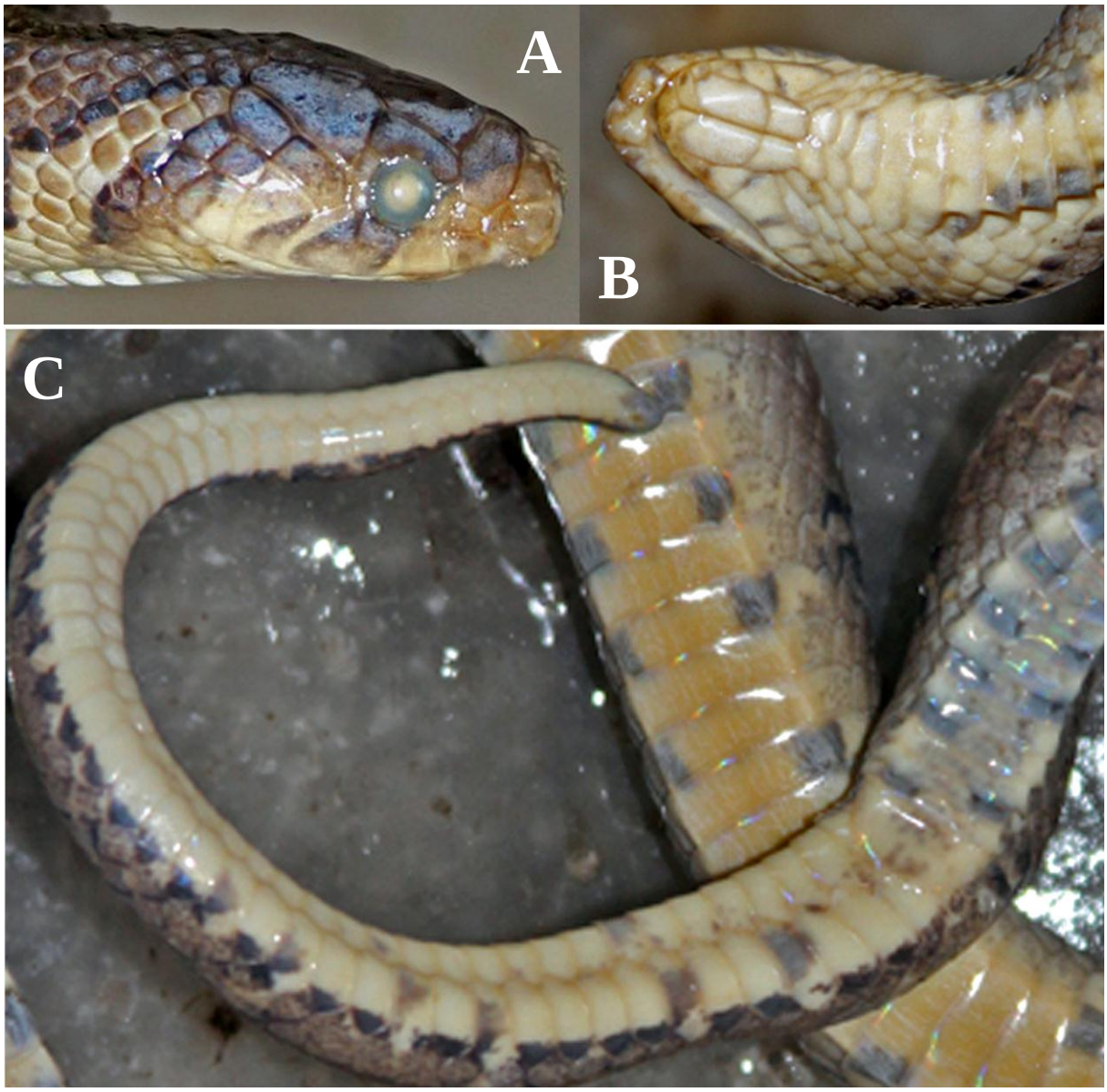

Figure 2: *Oligodon albocinctus* (JUHG 00332): **A**, lateral view of head; **B**, ventral view of head and **C**, subcaudal scales.

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