

# A Case of Albinism in Common Wolf Snake *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) First Time Reported From Dist. Korba, Chhattisgarh

Avinash Yadav<sup>1</sup>, Nidhi Singh<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>President, Reptile Care and Rescuer Society, Korba (an NGO) Regd no. 31788 date 10/01/2017

<sup>2</sup>Asst. Prof. Zoology, Kamla Nehru College, Korba (C.G.) (Members of Vigyan Sabha, Korba Unit)

**Abstract:** *Through this document occurrence of albinism in common wolf snake Lycodon aulicus is documented. An albino wolf snake was found in Sitamani village, Dist. Korba in 2017. By this document we also discuss the reasons of albinism and some previous cases of albinism in Lycodon aulicus. By this document we also discuss the reasons of albinism.*

**Keywords:** Albinism, tyrosine, Colubridae, Batesion mimicry, pigmentation

## 1. Introduction

Almost every vertebrate species show albinism even with this seemingly adverse condition (Gamble et al.2006). Albinism caused by genetic mutation. It is a type of genetically inherited condition in which a recessive gene affects enzyme tyrosinase an enzyme which is responsible for changes tyrosine into a compound that eventually gives rise to melanin (Singh & Mohnot, 2009). This process of enzymatic change is responsible for the pigmentation which may lead partial or complete albinism. Partial albinism identified by the presence of acromatic areas of the body where as true albinism recognized by their pinkish yellow body color and reddish eyes.

In case of Common Wolf snake (*Lycodon aulicus*) (Linnaeus, 1758) was reported in Maharashtra at three occurrences. First Hoshing et al (2013) deliberate an albino *Lycodon aulicus* with dark red bands and pink body. In another occurrence Bhutkar and Mahabal (2014) deliberate an albino *Lycodon aulicus* with white cross bar with unusual patterns on purple blue body. Third instance Thombre R and Dhande Abhishek reported albino Wolf snake in village Patna, tehsil Chalisgaon, and district Jalgaon Maharashtra.

## 2. Discussion and Result

By means of this paper we describe another case of albinism in *Lycodon aulicus*. It is a non venomous snake commonly known as Wolf snake belongs to the family Colubridae. This

species distributed all over India (including Lakshadweep but not the Andaman and Nicobar Islands). Also Shri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines (Daniel, 2002)

Due to its resemblance to the venomous Common Krait because of the Batesion mimicry according to this phenomenon an animal characterized by the superficial resemblance of harmful species. This resemblance confers the advantage such as protection from predators.

Albino Wolf snake was spotted by Bhujbal Yadav of Sitamani village on dated 16.7.17 (*Lat. 22<sup>o</sup>33'8.09'' N and Lng. 82<sup>o</sup>70'7.08''E*) **Korba** (C.G). The snake was rescued by Avinash Yadav by virtual search and capture method. The snake was male and its length is 18.17 inches and weight 3.91 b.

The snake show complete albinism and pinkish red eyes suggesting it as total albino and it was identified by following characters of identification and scalation :-

**Scalation:-** in 17:17:15 rows. **Head:-**9 supralabials ; 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in contact with eyes; 1 preocular ; 2 postocular; temporals 2+2. **Loreal:-** 1 not touching eye and in good contact with the inter nasal. **Ventral:-** 191 (172-214); anal divided. **Sub caudal:-** 60 and divided, (paired)

The albinos of animal world in India were protected under Schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act. 1972. The reptile was safe and ready to be released into the wild.



Figure 1: Side view of snake showing supralabials



Figure 2: Dorsal view of head



Figure 3: Ventral view of head

### 3. Conclusion

Even though this species commonly found in most of the part of India but this one shows Complete Albinism and that's why it's rare catch and first time reported in Korba Chhattisgarh.

### References

- [1] Jadhav M & Mahabal A (2012) Journal of Bombay Natural History Society. 109(3): 140-141.
- [2] Hoshing V, Thakur S and Mahabal A (2013) Reptile Rap 15 Jan 2013 page no.46-47.
- [3] Bhutkar R and Mahabal A (2014) Cases of albinism in snakes from Maharashtra, Reptile Rap 16: 31-35.
- [4] Thmbore R and Dhande, Abhishek R (2015) A Case of Albinism in Common Wolf Snake Lycodon Aulicus (Linnaeus, 1758) from Chalisgaon Tehsil, Dist. Jalgaon, Maharashtra.
- [5] Whitaker Romulus and Ashok captain, Snakes of India, The Field Guide (2015), published by Westland publications ltd with Draco Books.

### Author Profile



**Avinash Yadav** is President, Reptile Care and Rescuer Society, Korba (an NGO) Regd no. 31788 date 10/01/2017



**Nidhi Singh** is Astd. Prof. Dept. of Zoology, Kamla Nehru Mahavidyala, Korba C.G.