

Since the basking behaviour was observed only during sunshine, it is considered to be related to the thermoregulation of the lizard. Furthermore, the activity of the lizard was found to be influenced mostly by the environmental temperature. The preferred temperature (is the mean of normal activity range) for the garden lizard, *C. versicolor* studied here fell around 36.0°C.

The body temperature in *C. versicolor* was higher than their habitat temperature (both air and substratum) during day time but almost same during night.

*Thermal thresholds:* The thermal thresholds (°C) in *C. versicolor* were observed as follows:—

1. Minimum voluntary tolerance:	24.0-27.5
2. Maximum voluntary tolerance:	38.1-40.0
3. Basking range:	27.6-35.0
4. Normal activity range:	35.1-38.0
5. Preferred temperature :	36.0
6. Critical thermal maximum:	45.0
7. Lethal temperature:	45.5

*Moulting behaviour:* *C. versicolor* moults frequently, starting with the head and finally the posterior region. During moulting the colour of the lizards was dark brown. The moulting takes place from 3 to 10 days.

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#### 11. COBRA WITH KINGFISHER CAUGHT IN THROAT

Recently a cobra (*Naja n. naja*) was brought to us alive with the head and bill of a white-breasted kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrensis*) caught in its throat. The long beak and broad head of the bird was too much for the cobra to swallow or regurgitate and the snake would probably have died if we hadn't carefully removed the bird.



There are few records of cobras swallowing large, active birds. This adult kingfisher was perhaps caught by the cobra on its roost at night.

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## 12. ALGAL FOOD OF *APLOCHEILUS BLOCHII* (ARNOLD)

*Aplocheilus blochii* (Arnold) is a small fish found in the streams of Nagpur. The fish is used as food by the poor. Microscopical study of the intestinal contents of the fish from their natural habitats showed the species of *Oscillatoria*, *Spirogyra*, *Cosmarium* and a number of diatoms.

It is known that the study of intestinal contents only do not give a correct idea of the food (Kamat 1966, 1969) and so a number of algae belonging to Chlorophyceae, Euglenophyceae and Cyanophyceae were tried to find out the algae used as food by the author's method (Kamat, loc. cit.).

It was found that species of *Oscillatoria*, *Anabaenopsis* (veg.), *Euglena* and diatoms are digested by the fish; species of *Spirogyra* and *Closterium* are partially digested while species of *Cosmarium*, *Oedogonium*, *Rhizoclonium*, *Chlorella*, *Scenedesmus*, *Pediastrum*, *Pandorina*, *Elakatothrix*, *Trachelomonas*, *Chroococcus*, *Microcystis*, *Merismopedia*, *Gloeothecae*, *Lyngbya*, *Aulosira* and *Scytonema* are not digested at all. These algae when separated and cleaned from the excreta were found to be unaffected and could be grown in cultures. It may be mentioned here that *Pandorina* colonies when freed from excreta started swimming immediately.

The fish even when starved, did not take species of *Pithophora*, *Cladophora*, *Dichotomosiphon*, *Nitella*, *Lychnothamnus* and *Chara*, probably because they were too big.

One to four days old fry was found to grow much better on species of *Oscillatoria* alone than on a mixture of *Oscillatoria*, *Euglena* and diatoms. When a number of algae are given as food, the fish shows first preference for *Oscillatoria*.

Twenty five medium and large sized fishes were kept in a small cistern (3' × 3' × 3') containing species of *Oscillatoria*, *Euglena* and *Cladophora* with epiphytic diatoms and after three years their number rose to 832.





Whitaker, Romulus. 1974. "Cobra with Kingfisher Caught in Throat." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 71, 150–151.

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