Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam (Whitaker and Captain 2008), and Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh (Das 2008), as well as Mizoram (Mathew 2007b), there are no specific locality records. Though, this species was included in their photographic guide, Ahmed *et al.* (2009) do not mention any localities.

On September 04, 2009, around 14:00 hrs while conducting a survey on tiger beetles, a road kill was observed near Mualkawi village of Champhai district of Mizoram, NE India, which was adequate to examine and identify.

Morphometry and scalation: Slender bodied; smooth scales; round snout; eye large with round pupil; supralabials 9 (4 to 6 touching eye); preocular 1; postoculars 2; loreal present; ventrals 199; subcaudals 110 paired; anal 1; temporals 2+1; body scalation 19:19:17.

Coloration: Body green in colour, supralabials and ventral side of the body lighter green than body. Skin between scales black in colour, giving the appearance of black-edged scales.

The road-killed snake was identified as *Rhadinophis prasinum* (Blyth, 1854) (previously *Elaphe prasina*), as per Whitaker and Captain (2008), and Das (2008). Mathew (2007b) has included this species in the FAUNA OF MIZORAM, but without examining or mentioning any specimens or records. Harit and Ramanujam (2002), Mathew (2007a) and Harit (2009) have reported several snakes from the area, excluding this snake. Hence, this is the first authentic record of *Rhadinophis prasinum* (Blyth, 1854) from Mizoram and is worthy of documentation.

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11. NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR *HEMIDACTYLUS PRASHADI* SMITH, 1935 (FAMILY: GEKKONIDAE) FROM THE KUDREMUKH FOREST COMPLEX, KARNATAKA, INDIA

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Kudremukh forest complex (KNP) is one of the less explored mountain ranges of the central Western Ghats (Vasudevan *et al.* 2006). We conducted herpetological surveys for the Karnataka Forest Department from October 2005 to February 2006 in the Kudremukh National Park, the Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary, which together form the Kudremukh forest complex. On November 02, 2005, at 21:00 hrs, we came across an individual of *Hemidactylus*. It was seen on the wall of the Forest Department bungalow in the Bhagwati Nature Camp (820 m above msl) in the Kudremukh range of the Kudremukh National Park. The specimen was fixed in 70% ethanol and is now deposited in the Collections of the Bombay Natural History Society (Tag No. 324, BNHS No. 1749).

The specimen was identified as *H. prashadi* Smith, 1935 using standard taxonomic key (Smith 1935). The specimen matched the description completely. The coloration of this specimen was similar to Smith's description. The absence of preano-femoral pores suggests that the specimen could be a female.

As per earlier reports, *H. prashadi* was known to occur from Dorle in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra (Giri and Bauer 2006) to Jog in North Kanara district of Karnataka (Smith 1935; Jadhav *et al.* 1991; Tikader and Sharma 1992; Sharma 2002). After the first sighting of the gecko on November 02, 2005, we have seen the gecko on multiple occasions in the three protected areas of the Kudremukh forest complex. We have seen it from as far south as the Belthangady range of the

Kudremukh National Park (13° 06' N; 75° 18' E). According to the previous reports, this gecko is known to occur on walls of houses, barks of trees, lichen-covered black granite rocks (Jadhav *et al.* 1991; Tikader and Sharma 1992; Giri and Bauer 2006). In addition to spotting the adult geckos on walls and crevices of buildings, barks and within buttresses of trees, we have also seen many individuals on huge rocks along the river courses in the nights. We found the gecko from 40-820 m above msl.

It is thus noteworthy to mention this new locality report, which extends the distribution of this species by *c.* 150 km (aerial distance) towards south. This suggests that this species ranges widely throughout the central Western Ghats and its presence in the forests of Kodagu, which are contiguous with the Kudremukh hills, needs to be confirmed.

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12. OCCURRENCE OF FLYING FISH, *CHEILOPOGON ABEI* PARIN, 1996 FROM NEARSHORE WATERS OF THE NORTH-WEST COAST OF INDIA

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Introduction

Flying fish (Family: Exocoetidae) are common in tropical and subtropical waters. They form an important fishery resource world over, especially in countries such as Indonesia, Japan (Parin 1960), USA (Herald 1969), West Africa (Gibbs 1981) etc. Parin (1961) gave an account of the Exocoetid fauna of the Indian Ocean, and Day (1877, 1889) has described six species of flying fish from India.

Since flying fishes are capable of leaping out of water and gliding for short distances above the surface they are commonly called as 'flying mullet' and they are a significant component of the epipelagic food chain (Parin 1968). In Maharashtra, they are locally known as '*Kawla maasa*' meaning 'Crow fish'. Flying fishes have been occasionally reported from different centres along the coastal strip of India. Rao and Basheeruddin (1973) gave an account of the fishery of the species *Parexocoetus brachypterus brachypterus* (Richardson), including the size-composition, sex-ratio, maturity studies and diet from Madras (=Chennai) waters. Development of egg and larvae studies was carried out by Vijayaragavan (1973). Hornell (1923), Arora and Banerji (1957), and Pajot and Prabhakaradu (1993) described the flying fish fishery along the Coromandel coast, south-east India.

Sundaram and Sarang (2003) and Kizhakudan *et al.* (2002) have reported the species *Cheilopogon furcatus* (Mitchill 1815) from Mumbai and Veraval waters respectively. Three other species of flying fish *Cheilopogon nigricans* (Bennett 1840), *Cheilopogon suttoni* (Whitley & Colefax, 1938) and *Hirundichthys oxycephalus* (Bleeker 1852) were also reported from Mumbai waters (Kamble *et al.* 2007).

Material and Methods

During May 2007, about 75 kg of flying fishes were landed by trawlers at New Ferry Wharf (*Bhaucha Dhakka*), Mumbai, Maharashtra. The depth of fishing operation was at 20-30 m, 50-60 km off north-west coast in Mumbai waters. About 2 kg of sample was brought to the laboratory for identification and further biological analysis. Total length was measured using a digital calliper and total weight (±0.01 gm) was determined using an electronic balance after the specimens were dried on blotting paper. The measurements