

Rare Olive-Green Green Keelback Snake

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in News?

A rare olive-green coloured Green Keelback snake was spotted near Gangawadi village, on the fringes of B.R. Hills, in Yelandur taluk, Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.

Green Keelback





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	Feature	Details
	Common name	Green Keelback
	Regional name	Malayalam: Pacha Neerkoli Kannada: ಅಲಿವ್ ಬೆನ್ನೆಣುಹಾವು
	Family	Natricidae
	Venomous status	Reported as non-venomous
	IUCN Red List	Least Concern (LC), as provided
	Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Schedule IV, as provided
	Distribution	Nepal, central, eastern and southern India, and Sri Lanka
	Diet	Frogs, rats, lizards and small reptiles
	Defensive behaviour	Raises its hood when threatened
	Colour	Olive-green; reported to be rare

Distribution

Nepal, central, eastern and southern India, and Sri Lanka



Morphological Characteristics

- **Size** - Usually 60-70 cm long; newborns measure approximately 10-11 cm.
- **Body** - Slender, with keeled (ridged) scales.
- **Head** - Obtusely rounded and slightly broader than the neck.
- **Dorsal colour** - Olive-brown to olive-green, usually with two fine red lines along the body.
- **Underside** - Yellow-white, yellow-green or reddish-orange.

Snakes

- Snakes are reptiles belonging to the order Squamata.
- Snakes serve an important ecological function by regulating populations of frogs,

rodents, and other small animals.

- Non-venomous snakes are not necessarily harmless; they may bite if threatened.
- Raising a hood is a defensive behaviour seen in certain snakes, especially cobras.

B.R. Hills

- **Full name** - Biligiri Rangana Betta.
- **Location** - Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.
- **Ecological significance** - The region forms an important wildlife habitat in the Western Ghats-Eastern Ghats landscape.
- **Protected area** - Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve.

Reference

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