



## A confirmed record of Russell's kukri (*Oligodon russelius*) from Bangladesh

*Oligodon russelius* (Daudin, 1803) is closely allied to *O. arnensis* (Shaw, 1802) and distributed in the central, eastern and northern parts of India (Bandara *et al.* 2022). The existing literature on the herpetofauna of Bangladesh provide few reports of *O. arnensis* (Kamruzzaman 2009, IUCN 2015, Khan 2018), but *O. arnensis* is confined to southern India and Bandara *et al.* (2022) assigned northern records to the resurrected *O. russelius*, with a range limit depicted in India near the border with Bangladesh. Therefore, the previous records from Bangladesh presumably represent *O. russelius*. On 26 July 2021, a single individual of *Oligodon* species (Fig. 1) was spotted in a residence at Zhirkupara (24°30'9.38"N, 88°25'01.85"E), Godagari, Rajshahi, Bangladesh. Although the landlord killed it and threw it away, we were able to get a photograph of the snake had being killed, and it was identified based on the taxonomic characteristics provided by Bandara *et al.* (2022). It had dorsum light olive brown; 38 black cross stripes along the body and few more rudimentary stripes on the broken tail; two inverted V-shaped black markings on the head; another inverted Y-shaped black marking on the nape, starting from the lateral side of the neck, pointing forward to the level of the interparietal region; venter uniform cream. We have identified that individual as the “northern Indian morph” of *O. russelius* as specified by Bandara *et al.* (2022) because it had cross stripes which were variegated with streaks before disappearing laterally on the body; the cross stripes were with distinct white margins. According to our understanding, this is the first documented *O. russelius* from Bangladesh with correctly identified photographic evidence.

### Acknowledgements

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**Figure 1.** The killed individual of *O. russelius* spotted in a residence at Zhirkupara, Bangladesh

### Literature Cited

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