



Second report of striped grass skink (*Eutropis trivittata*) from Gujarat, India

The striped grass skink, *Eutropis trivittata* (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827) is a wide ranging skink, distributed in northern and eastern India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal (Amarasinghe *et al.* 2022). The nomen of the species had a murky taxonomic history and for a considerable time period it was known by a junior subjective synonym, *E. dissimilis*, which was rectified by Amarasinghe *et al.* (2022). The present communication is the first record of the species from the Saurashtra region of Gujarat state, India. In Gujarat, the species was previously reported from Central Gujarat, based on one specimen found three decades ago (Vyas & Patel 1992, Patel & Vyas 2019).

On 14 August 2022, a roadkilled individual of a skink (SVL: 94 mm; Fig. 1) was found near Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar (22°02'43.5"N, 72°01'43.1"E), Bhavnagar, Gujarat. The specimen was damaged but on close examination, some diagnostic features were visible on the body and on the right side of the head, based on which the specimen was identified as *Eutropis trivittata*. The specimen had all the diagnostic morphological characters stated by Amarasinghe *et al.* (2022) including 15 lamellae under the 4th toe (right pes), 30+ (damaged) midbody scale rows, and 54 paravertebral scales.

Though a widely distributed species, this is only the second report of *E. trivittata* from Gujarat state, and that after a gap of three decades, which makes this communication noteworthy. Velavadar is a prominent grassland, situated on the eastern edge of Saurashtra peninsula, that receives less rainfall than other forest regions of the state. Based on the distribution modeling by Amarasinghe *et al.* (2022), this region has medium occurrence probability (35–50%) for *E. trivittata*. The total number of lizards in Saurashtra region is now 27 species of which 5 are skinks.



Figure 1. The road kill individual of *Eutropis trivittata* record from Velavadar, Gujarat

Acknowledgements

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