

PICTORIAL **GUIDE** on the **HERPETOFAUNA**



Discovered/Reappraised from
MIZORAM

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ON THE
HERPETOFAUNA
DISCOVERED/REAPPRAISED
FROM
MIZORAM**

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&

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Department of Zoology

Mizoram University

In Collaboration with
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Note:

*Species name written in red is venomous

* Species name written in orange is poisonous

FOREWORD

It is a matter of great pride for MIZORAM EIACP HUB to present this valuable publication on the *Herpetofauna discovered from Mizoram*, the first of its kind in Mizoram. This Volume serves as a Pictorial Guide on the Herpetofauna discovered/reappraised from Mizoram, a region that holds one of the richest, yet perhaps least explored repositories of biodiversity within India. Nestled in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, Mizoram's forests, rivers, and hills provide an exceptional haven for amphibians and reptiles, many of which remain scientifically undocumented or are endemic to this landscape, as are often overlooked despite its vital roles in maintaining ecological balance.

Now, thanks to the dedication and unwavering commitment shown by the Team of researchers from Developmental Biology and Herpetology Lab., Department of Zoology, Mizoram University who relentlessly ventured into the forests, rivers, and hills of Mizoram for years to bring its hidden biodiversity to light, a number of new species of Herpetofauna have been discovered from Mizoram. And thus, this volume is the result of the dedicated fieldwork, careful biodiversity research, and a deep respect for nature and I highly commend and congratulate the Team for their remarkable contribution in bringing to light the hidden diversity of Mizoram's herpetofauna, revealing species that are not only scientifically significant but also part of the region's natural heritage.

The documentation of herpetofauna is not merely an academic exercise—it is a crucial step in understanding the delicate ecological balance that sustains life in this part of the world. Amphibians and reptiles serve as vital bioindicators of ecosystem health, and their presence or decline often reflects the impacts of environmental change. In this context, the discoveries recorded in this book highlight not only the biological wealth of Mizoram but also the urgent need for conservation of its fragile habitats.

It is my sincere hope that this book will inspire young researchers, conservationists, and policymakers to recognize the significance of Mizoram's herpetofaunal diversity and to work collectively towards its preservation.



Dr. Lalramnghaki Pachuau
Co-ordinator,
Mizoram EIACP Hub

INTRODUCTION

Mizoram is a treasure trove of wildlife diversity, thanks to its location in the Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot, vast forest cover, and varied ecosystems ranging from tropical forests to high-altitude grasslands. The state supports a wide range of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects — many of which are rare, endangered, or endemic.

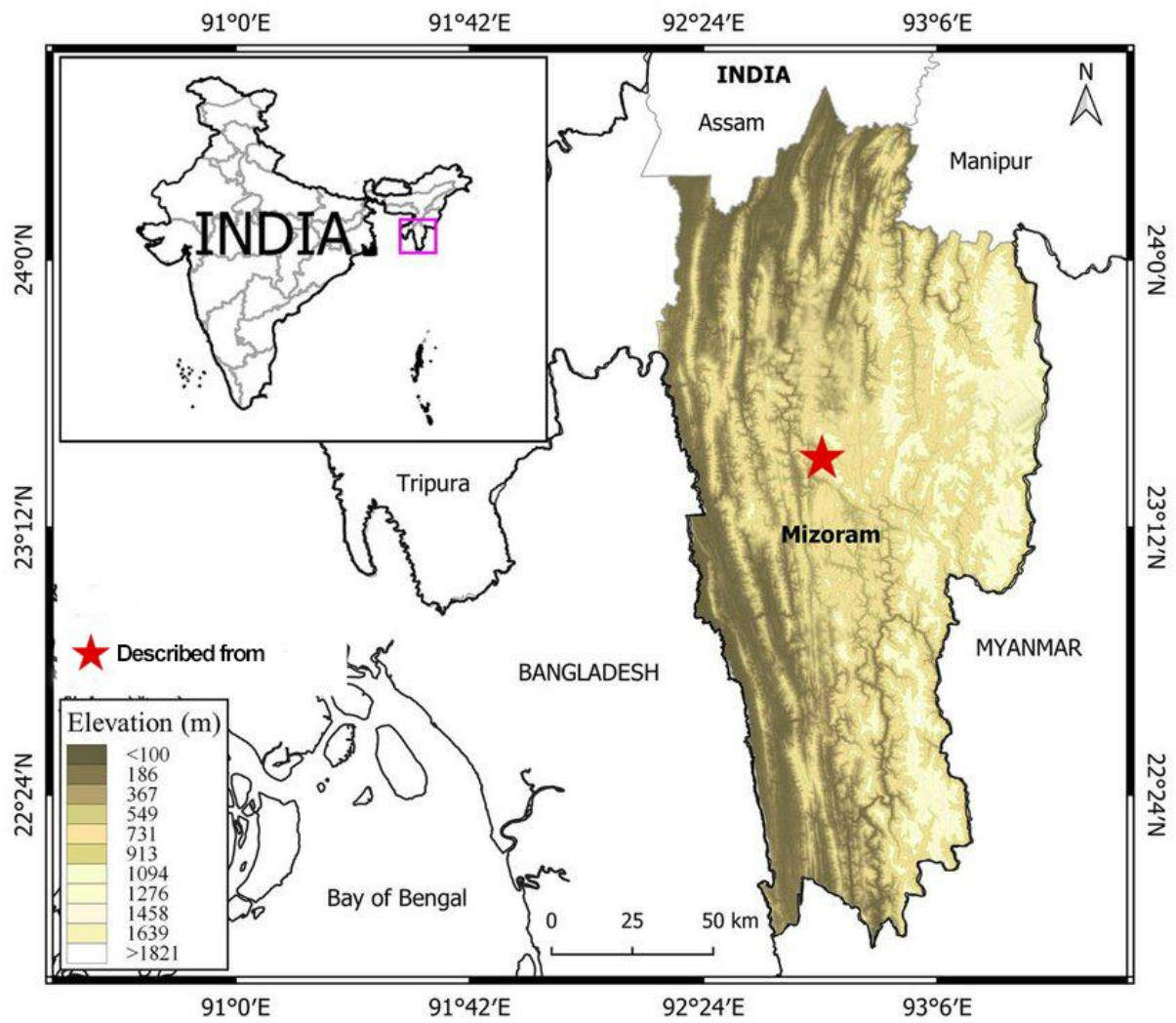
The herpetofauna of Mizoram is highly diverse and ecologically significant, comprising a wide variety of reptiles and amphibians due to the state's tropical climate, dense forests, and location within the Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot. The region is home to numerous snakes such as the king cobra, pit vipers, and rat snakes; lizards including monitor lizards, skinks, and geckos; and several turtle species like the Asian pLeaf turtle. Mizoram also harbors a rich assemblage of amphibians, especially tree frogs (*Polypedates*, *Rhacophorus*), torrent frogs (*Amolops*), bush frogs (*Raorchestes*), and various toads and microhylids, many of which are endemic or newly discovered. The state's varied terrain and high rainfall create ideal habitats, but conservation efforts are needed due to threats like habitat loss, shifting cultivation, and limited research documentation.

Mizoram exhibits remarkable herpetofaunal richness, with a high diversity of reptiles and amphibians supported by its tropical climate, dense forests, and varied terrain; the state is home to numerous species of snakes (including king cobras, pit vipers, and pythons), lizards (such as skinks, geckos, and monitor lizards), and a wide range of amphibians like tree frogs, torrent frogs, bush frogs, and toads, many of which are endemic or recently discovered, highlighting its significance within the Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot.

In addition to its diverse snake and lizard populations, Mizoram's rich herpetofauna includes several rare and ecologically important amphibians adapted to its moist hill forests and fast-flowing streams. Species such as *Rhacophorus* (gliding tree frogs), *Amolops* (torrent frogs), and *Raorchestes* (bush frogs) thrive in the region's microhabitats, many of them being endemic and found nowhere else in India. The presence of both arboreal and aquatic species demonstrates the ecological complexity and habitat variety across Mizoram's landscape. Ongoing discoveries of new species—especially within lesser-studied groups like geckos and microhylid frogs—underscore the state's high conservation value and the urgent need for detailed field research, documentation, and habitat protection to preserve its unique herpetofaunal diversity.

In this book, we highlight the new herpetofaunal species described/Reappraised from the state of Mizoram and the authors as well as research groups encourage more researchers into ecological, diversity and distributional study which can lead to the discovery of more species in the state itself.

SNAKES



FAMILY - COLUBRIDAE

Blythia hmuifang Vogel, Lalremsanga & Vanlalhrima, 2017

Common name: Mizoram ground snake/ Mizoram Bodennatter

Characters:

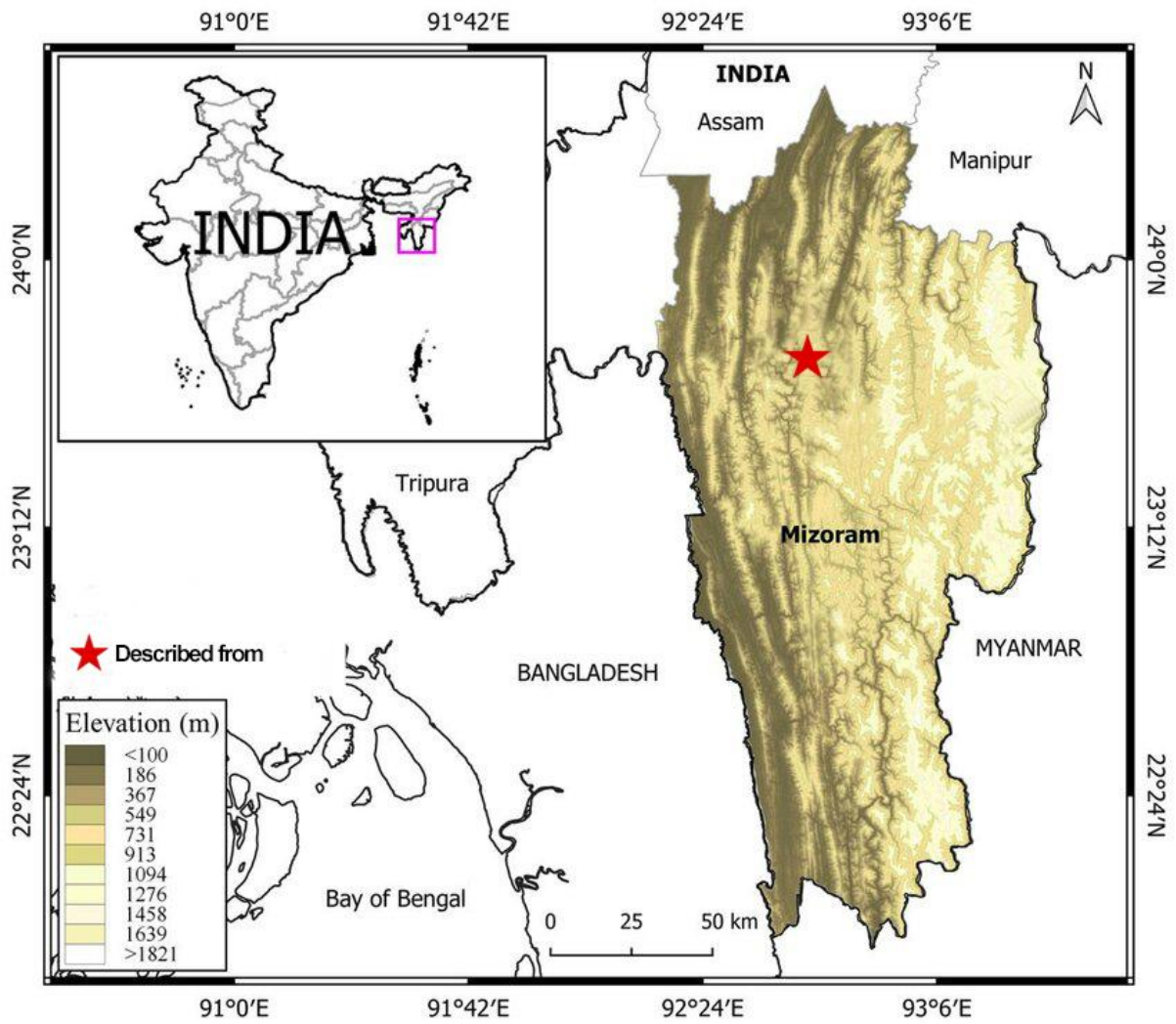
- Body cylindrical and elongated with pointed snout. Large, round eyes relative to body size. Lateral scales not enlarged with uniform appearance. Head is elongated, bluntly pointed, and clearly distinct from the neck; round pupil; scales smooth without apical pits; tail short, tapering progressively and pointed.
- Body and tail dark brown, dorsal scales with fine speckling with a mixture of cream, pale orange and bright orange. Dorsal scales edged in darker colour; ventral surface of the tail heavily mottled with dark spots.

Described from: Hmuifang Community Reserve Forest (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Rocky, boulders and gravels beneath vegetation. Moist tropical montane forests in Mizoram, between 1400 - 1700 m above sea level.



Photo credit: H.T. Lalremsanga



Smithophis atemporalis Giri, Gower, Das, Lalremsanga, Lalronunga, Captain & Deepak, 2019

Common name: Mizo rain snake/Narrow-headed *smithophis*

Characters:

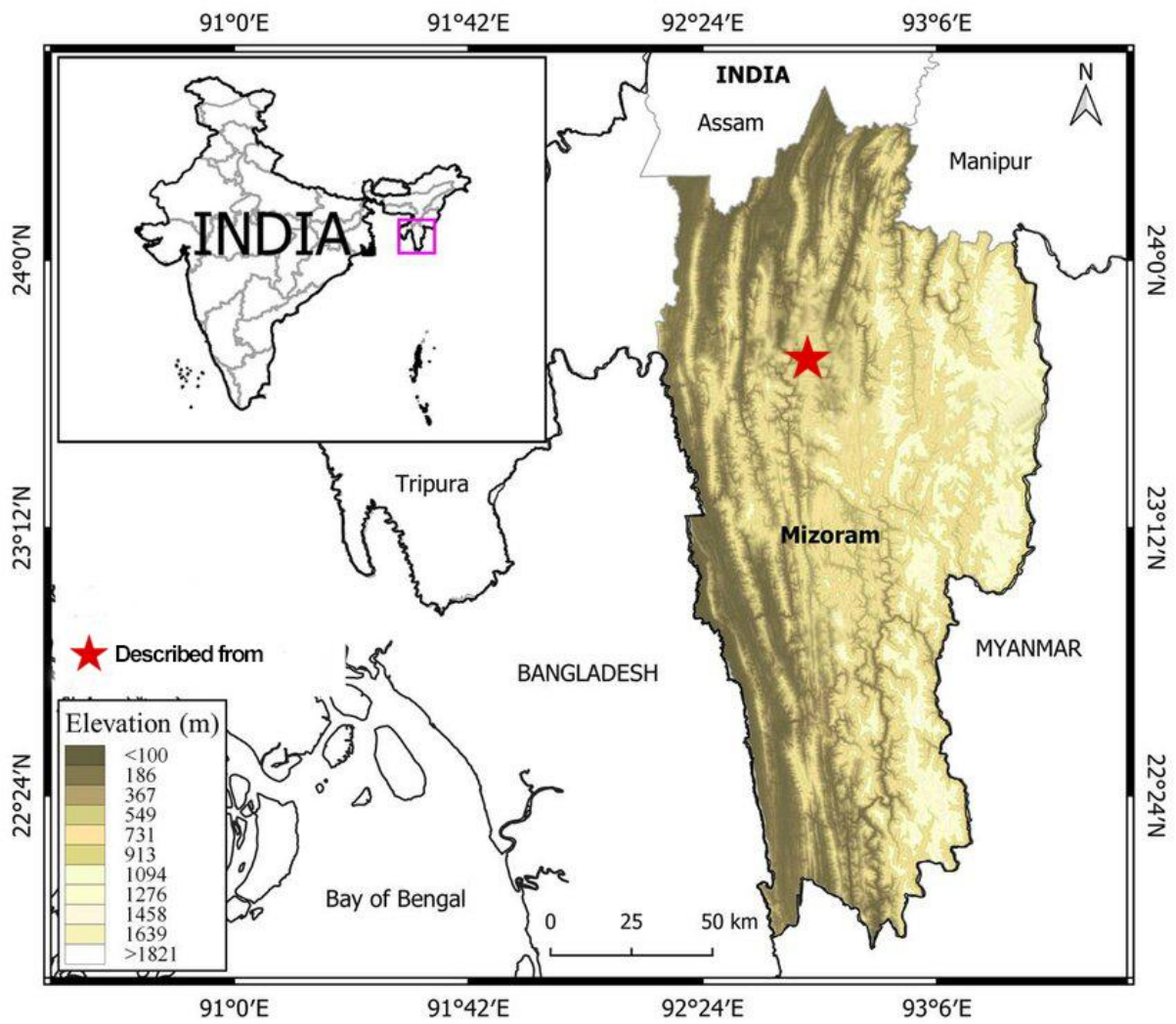
- A small-dark, terrestrial snake with white bands/rings on body. Body moderately laterally compressed and flattened ventrally; broadest at midbody, tapering towards both anterior and posterior ends. Head elongated, broader than tall, slightly wider than the neck; snout appears truncate at the tip
- Head, body, and tail predominantly glossy black dorsally and creamish-white ventrally. Dorsal scales smooth; head scales uniformly glossy black on the upper surface.
- Rostral scale primarily black with creamish-white coloration on the lower portion. Supra-labials black on the upper half and creamish-white below, with the proportion of each color ranging from nearly equal to almost entirely creamish-white; the boundary between the two shades is indistinct, often appearing mottled or speckled with black.

Described from: Aizawl (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Streams and other wet habitats such as tarmac roads, crepuscular as well as nocturnal, found during monsoon season.



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Smithophis mizoramensis Mirza, Bhardwaj, Lalmuanawma, Choure, Lalremsanga, Vabeiryureilai, Captain, Zagade & Patel, 2024

Common name: Mizo Brook snake

Characters:

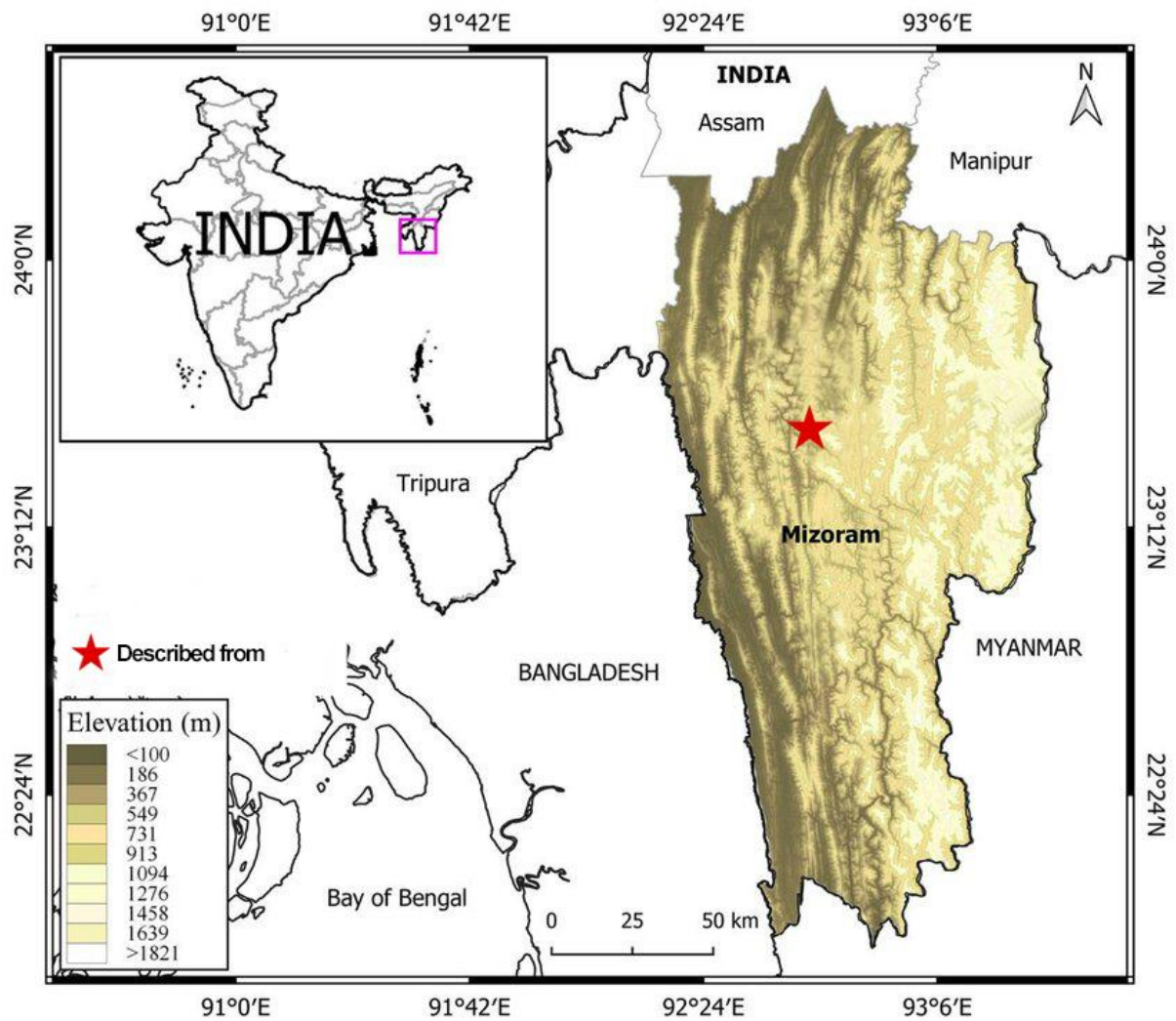
- Body not rounded, ventral surface slightly flattened. Smooth dorsal scales throughout the body and moderately keeled sacral scales in males. Temporal scales are present. Circum-orbital scales 4–5.
- Dorsal coloration is a shade of olive with indistinct dark reticulate patterns, overall black with faint gray reticulate markings or bands on the body in preservative.
- Each ventral scale is darker anteriorly edged with a yellowish/off-white border
- sacral keels are present in males

Described from: Aizawl District (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Streams and other wet habitats, crepuscular as well as nocturnal, found during monsoon season.



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Smithophis leptofasciatus Muansanga, Purkayastha, Hruaia, Vabeiryureilai, Biakzuala, Decemson, Lalremsanga & Bohra, 2025

Common name: Narrow-banded rain snake

Characters:

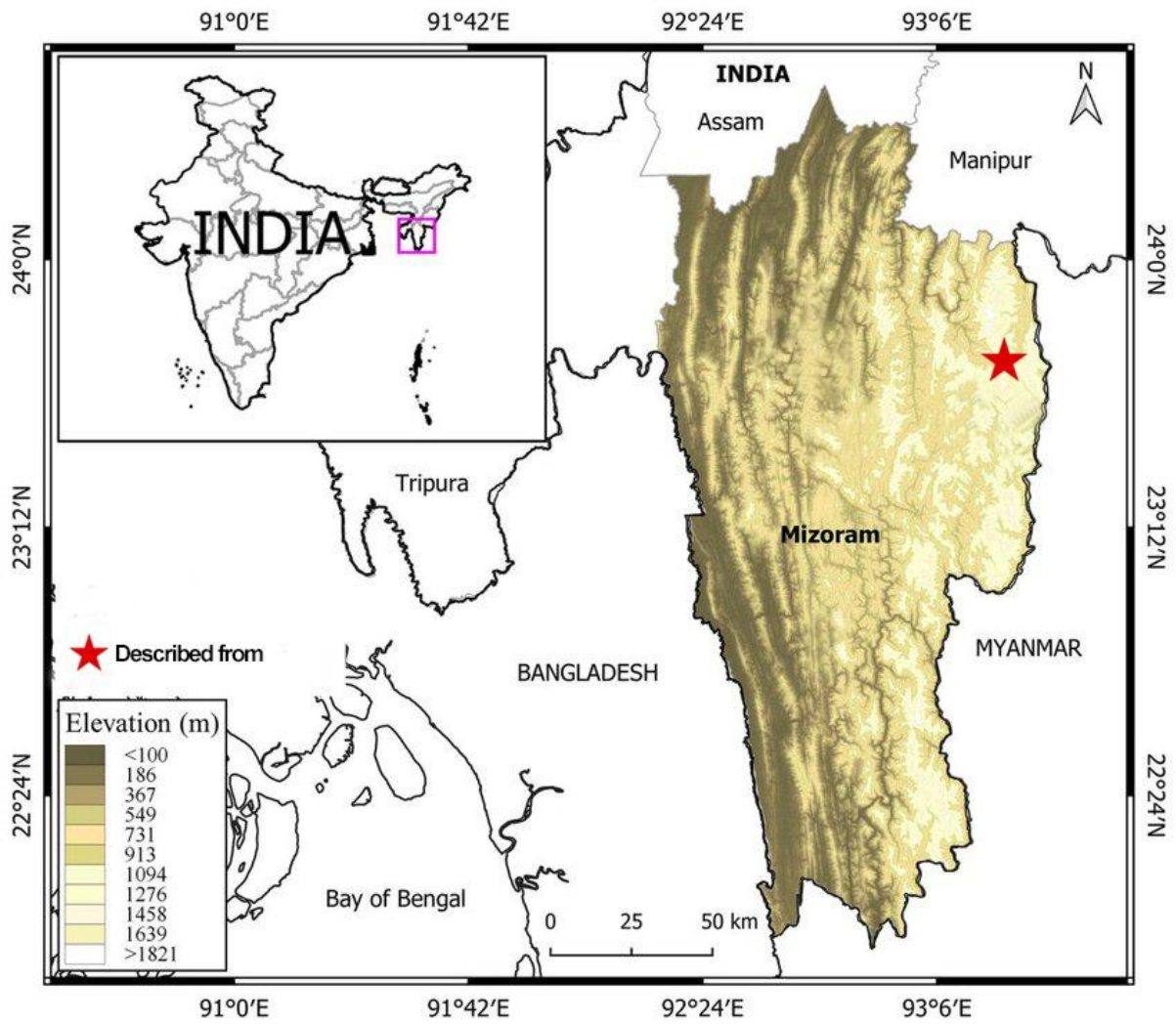
- Small sized natricid snake with cylindrical and slender body having smooth dorsal scale rows throughout the body with shiny dark or black, interspersed with distinct, narrow, creamish-white or yellowish-lime transverse bands. Ventral surface typically yellowish-lime or creamish-white, while tail is noticeably darker compared to the rest of the ventral region.
- Head elongated, moderately large and somewhat distinct from neck; snout rather large, long as well as broad and semi-oval in shape as seen from above; eye moderately large with round pupils.
- Dorsal scales somewhat rhomboid in shape with distinct transverse bands that appear to be somewhat trapezoid and are irregularly V shaped.
- Anal plate completely divided, and with paired subcaudals. Tail is moderately long, complete, having a length of 54 mm with a Tal/TL ratio of 0.21 and ends with a short tapering spine with a somewhat sharp tip.

Described from: Aizawl (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Streams and other wet habitats, crepuscular as well as nocturnal, found during monsoon season.



Photo credit: Uday Hedge



Herpetoreas murlen Lalremsanga, Bal, Vogel & Biakzuala, 2022

Common name: Murlen Keelback Snake/Murlen-Wassernatter

Characters:

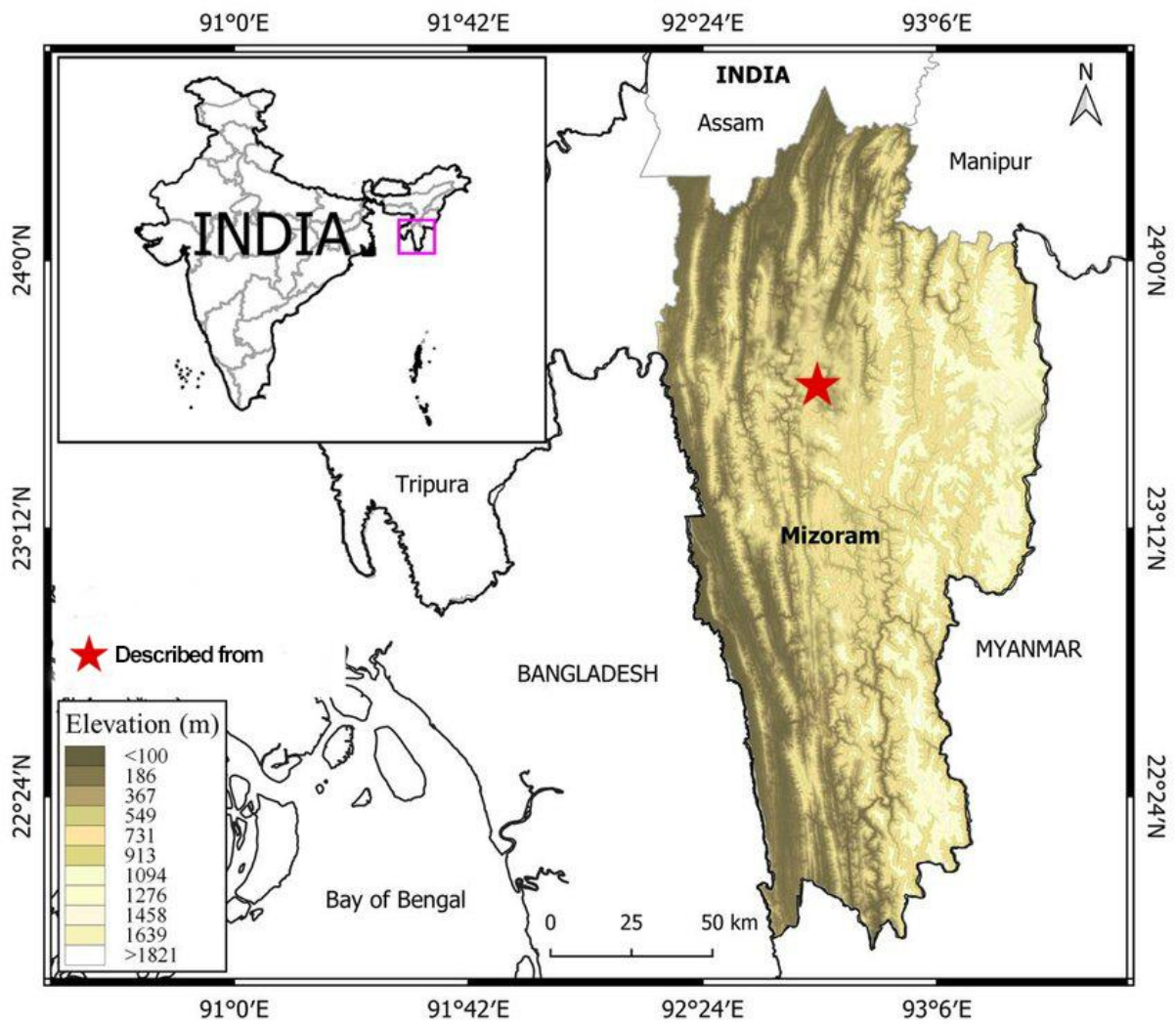
- Body elongated and slender with dark olive-grey, most scales randomly speckled with black on the margins. interscales sparsely speckled with white; dorsolateral stripe extending from the neck to the tail, covering the upper part of the 5th row along the anterior part of the body.
- head distinct from neck, longer than wide; snout modestly with small nostrils
- Eyes notably enlarged relative to head size, pupils round; a single loreal, wider than long; prefrontals wider than long, extending laterally in contact with internasals, nasals, loreal, preoculars, and frontal
- Chin, throat, and ventral surface of the neck uniformly whitish ivory-cream, noticeably paler than the venter

Described from: Murlen National Park, Champhai (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Forest floor in leaf litters. Above 1700 m asl.



Photo credit: Amit Kumar Bal



FAMILY – XENODERMIDAE

Stoliczka vanhnuailianai Lalronunga, Lalhmangaiha, Zosangliana, Lalhmingliani, Gower, Das & Deepak, 2021

Common name: Lushai hills dragon snake.

Characters:

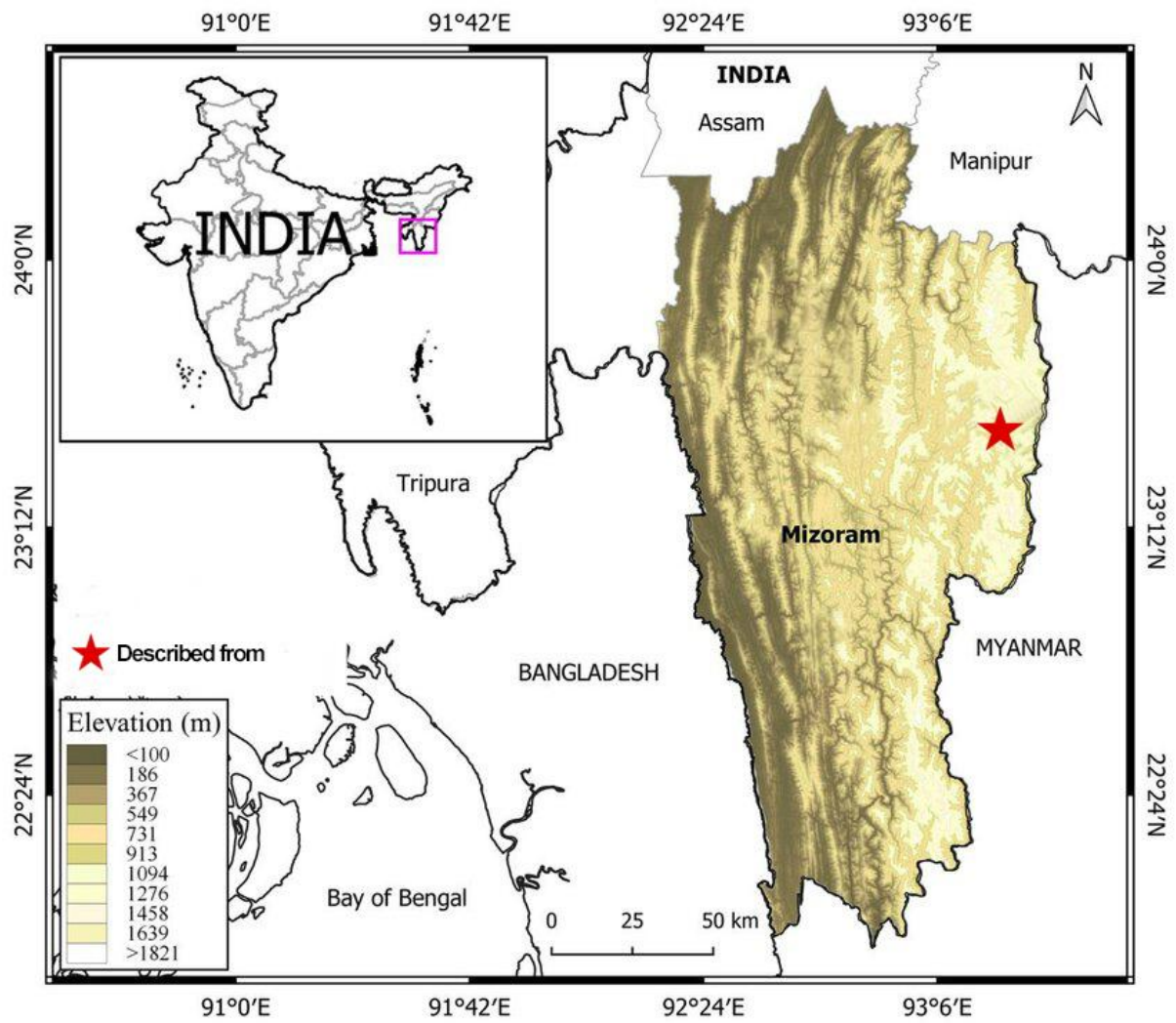
- Body slender and laterally compressed, bearing six enlarged ventral scales.
- Head distinct from (much wider than) neck, with large shields, the shields entire or separated by small scales.
- Nostril positioned within a large, concave nasal scale.

Described from: Tuirivang, Aizawl (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: nocturnal, found during monsoon season. Streams and other wet habitats,



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



FAMILY - VIPERIDAE

Trimeresurus mayaae Rathee, Purkayastha, Lalremsanga, Dalal, Biakzuala, Muansanga & Mirza, 2022

Common name: Maya's pit viper

Characters:

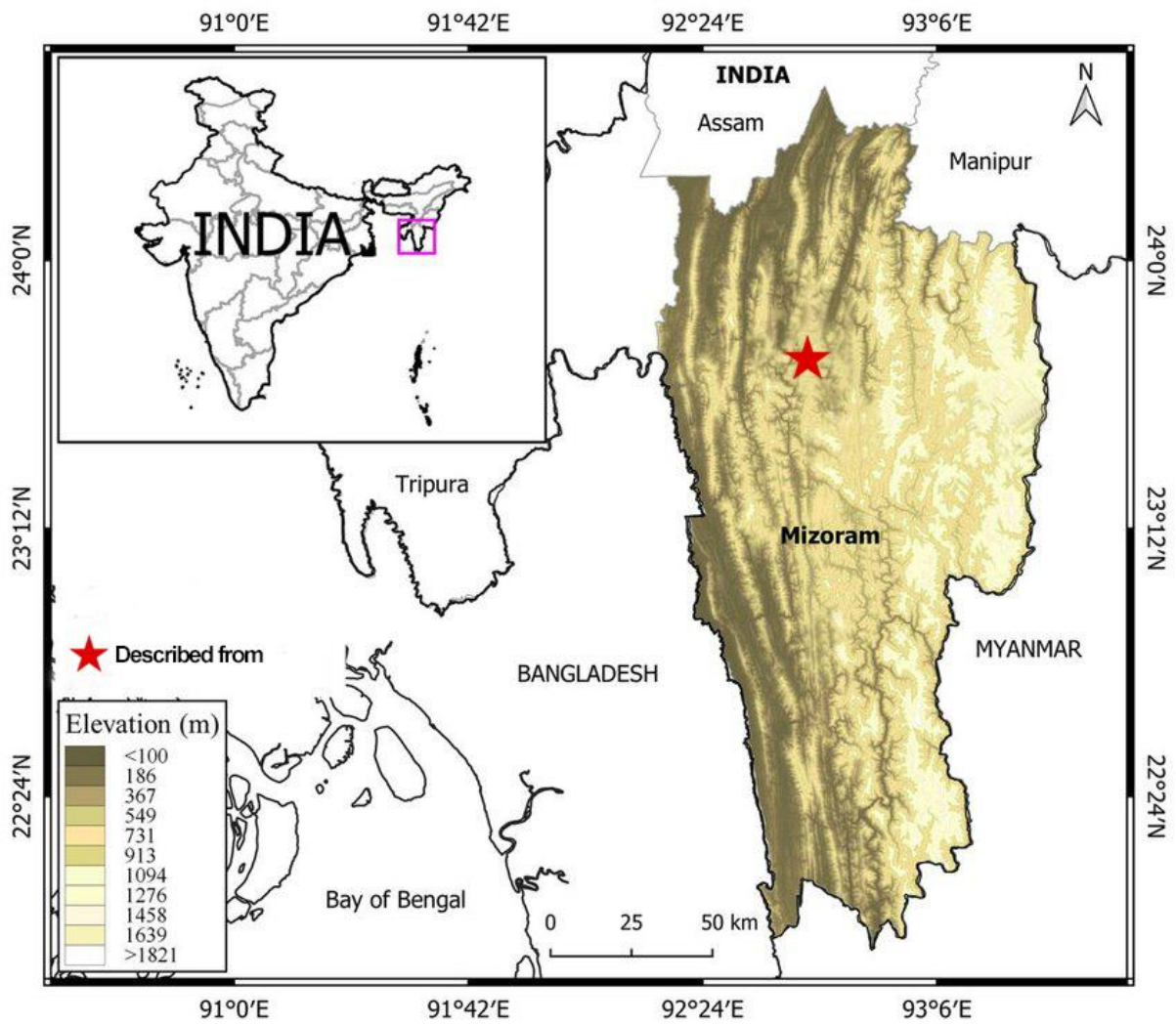
- body green in both males and females, moderate size, with maximum total length of 750mm. In males, a prominent bicolored postocular stripe is present—narrow and white on the lower edge, broad and vivid red above; in females, the postocular stripe is either faint white or entirely absent.
- Snout covered with rather enlarged juxtaposed scales; internasals never in contact, separated by 1–2 scale; supraoculars narrower than internasals, separated by 9–10 smooth cephalic scales.

Described from: Champhai (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Inhabits humid, tropical environments and is arboreal, often found in trees.



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



FAMILY - ELAPIDAE

Sinomicrurus gorei (Wall, 1909)

Common name: Gore's coral snake/Gores Korallenotter

Characters:

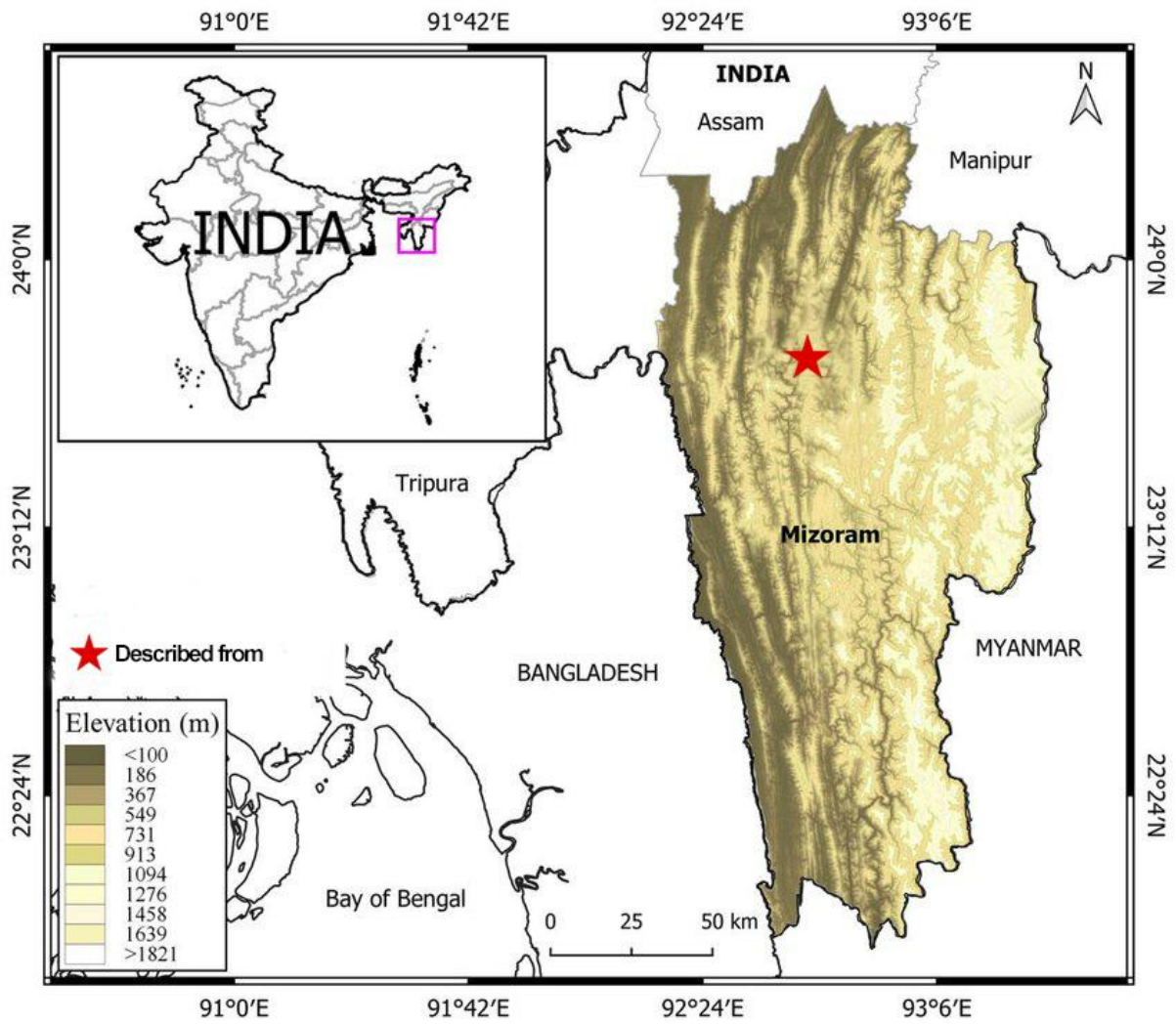
- medium-sized species with black rostral band spilling into the frontal; anterior edge of black nuchal band not curved anteriorly
- Lack black transverse bands on the dorsum which are instead reduced to cover not more than five dorsal scales; anterior edge of black nuchal band usually irregular and straight in orientation with some minutely pointy edges extending anteriorly or even posteriorly.
- Head tapering towards snout tip giving a more V-like or parabolic semi-elliptical shape, and snout hemi-spherically-blunt giving U-like pattern.
- Palatine with five functional teeth; main body of hemi-penis moderately enlarged with spines

Described from: Aizawl (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Underground near human settlements, forest leaf litters



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



FAMILY - PAREIDAE

Pareas modestus Theobald, 1868

Common name: Black slug snake

Characters:

- small size with slender black body; head and dorsal uniformly greyish-black to blackish with upper labials and temporals mottled in greyish-white; ventral shields up to the tail tip in uniform light greyish-white.
- Head distinct from neck narrowly elongated, distinctly compressed laterally and oval in dorsal view. One loreal not contacting the eye; prefrontal contacting the eye; temporals crescent-shaped, and elongated
- Rostral scale slightly visible from above; single nasals; two inter-nasals, widely in contact with each other with a diagonal suture; two large irregular pentagonal prefrontals with a slightly diagonal suture between; one frontal scale is hexagonal with shield-shaped.

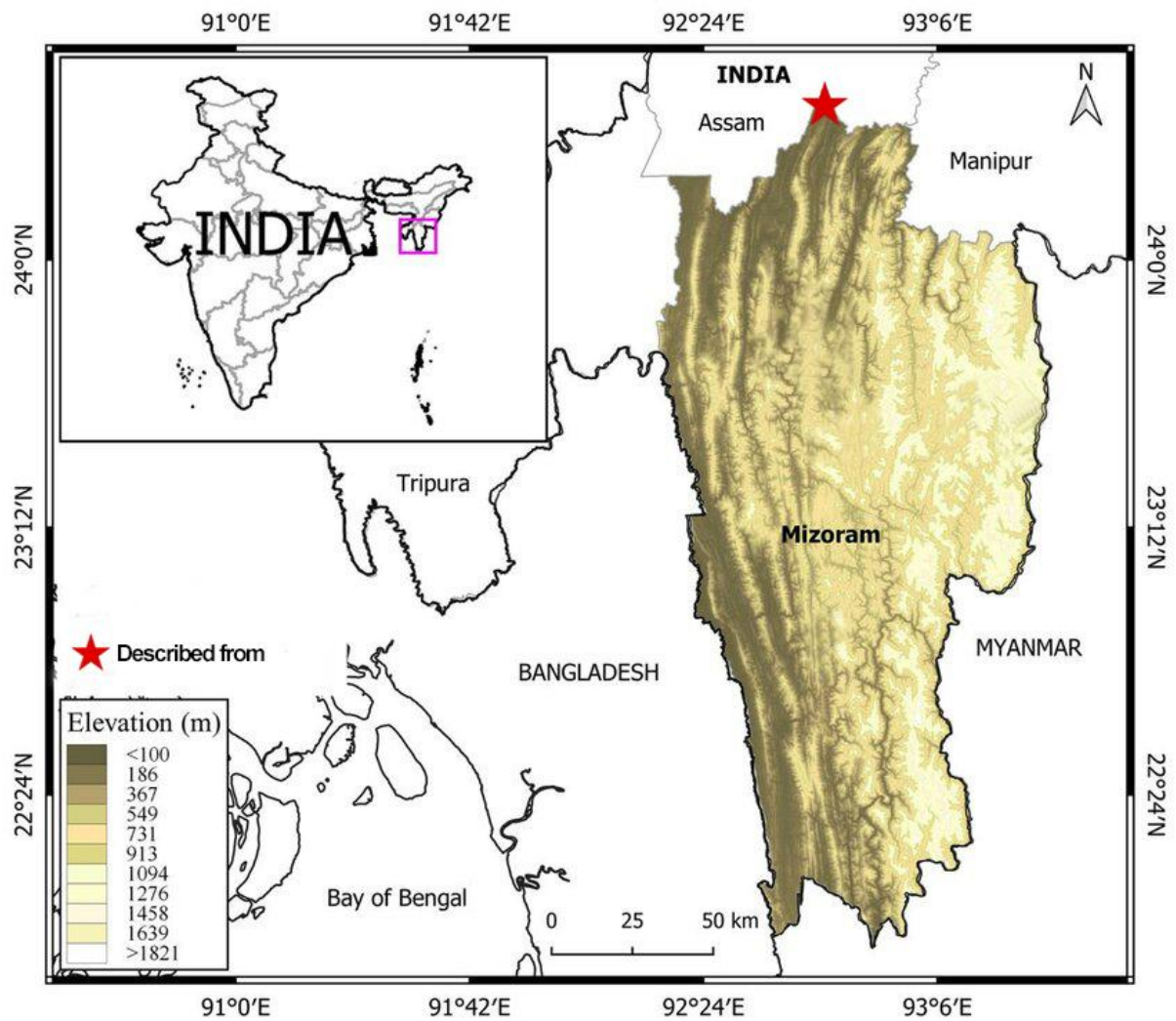
Described from: Mizoram University Campus, Tanhril, Selesih, Sawleng, Khawrihnim, Suangpuilawn (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Forest floors in leaf litter



Photo credit: Gernot Vogel

GECKOS & LIZARDS



FAMILY - GEKKONIDAE

Cyrtodactylus vairengtensis Lalremsanga, Colney, Vabeiryureilai,
Malsawmdawngliana, Bohra, Biakzuala, Muansanga, Das & Purkayastha, 2023

Common name: Vairengte bent-toed gecko

Characters:

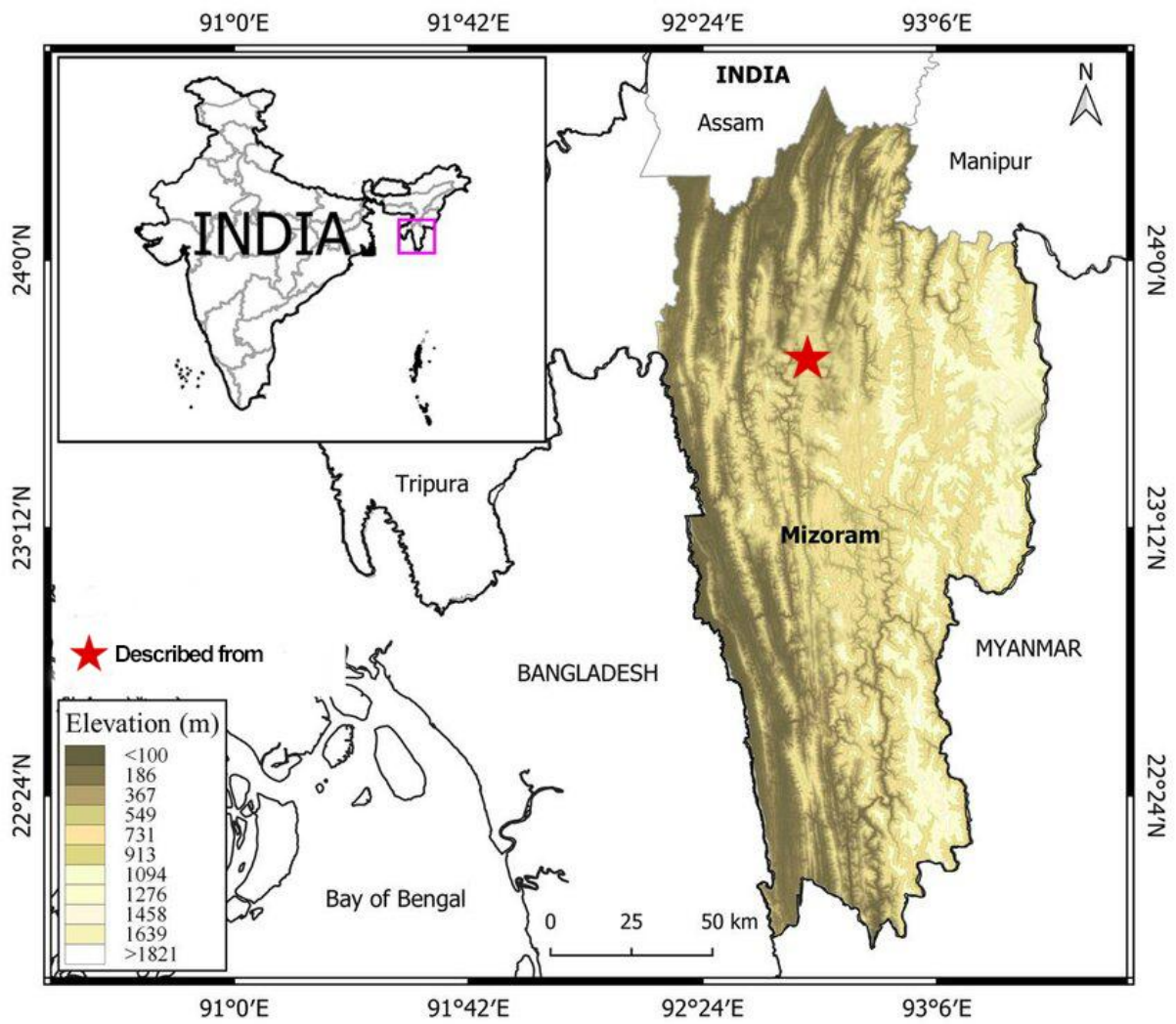
- Moderate-sized gecko with head longer than broad, somewhat depressed and distinct from neck. Snout less than half of the head length.
- Body moderately slender; dorsal scales are mostly heterogeneous. Dorsum primarily greyish brown in colour; head somewhat brownish grey; forehead without markings.
- Eye approximately one-quarter of the head length; vertical pupil with crenulate margins
- Forearm and tibia short; digits narrow, without a scansorial pad, sub digital lamellae transversely widened beneath the basal phalanx.
- Tail complete, oval in cross-section, dorsoventrally depressed; dorsal tubercles on the tail base are enlarged, flat, and pointed.
- 9-11 precloacal femoral pores in male.

Described from: Vairengte (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Siltstone bed near public link road



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Cyrtodactylus aaronbaueri Purkayastha, Lalremsanga, Bohra, Biakzuala, Decemson, Muansanga, Vabeiryureilai & Rathee, 2021

Common name: Aaron Bauer's Bent-toed Gecko

Characters:

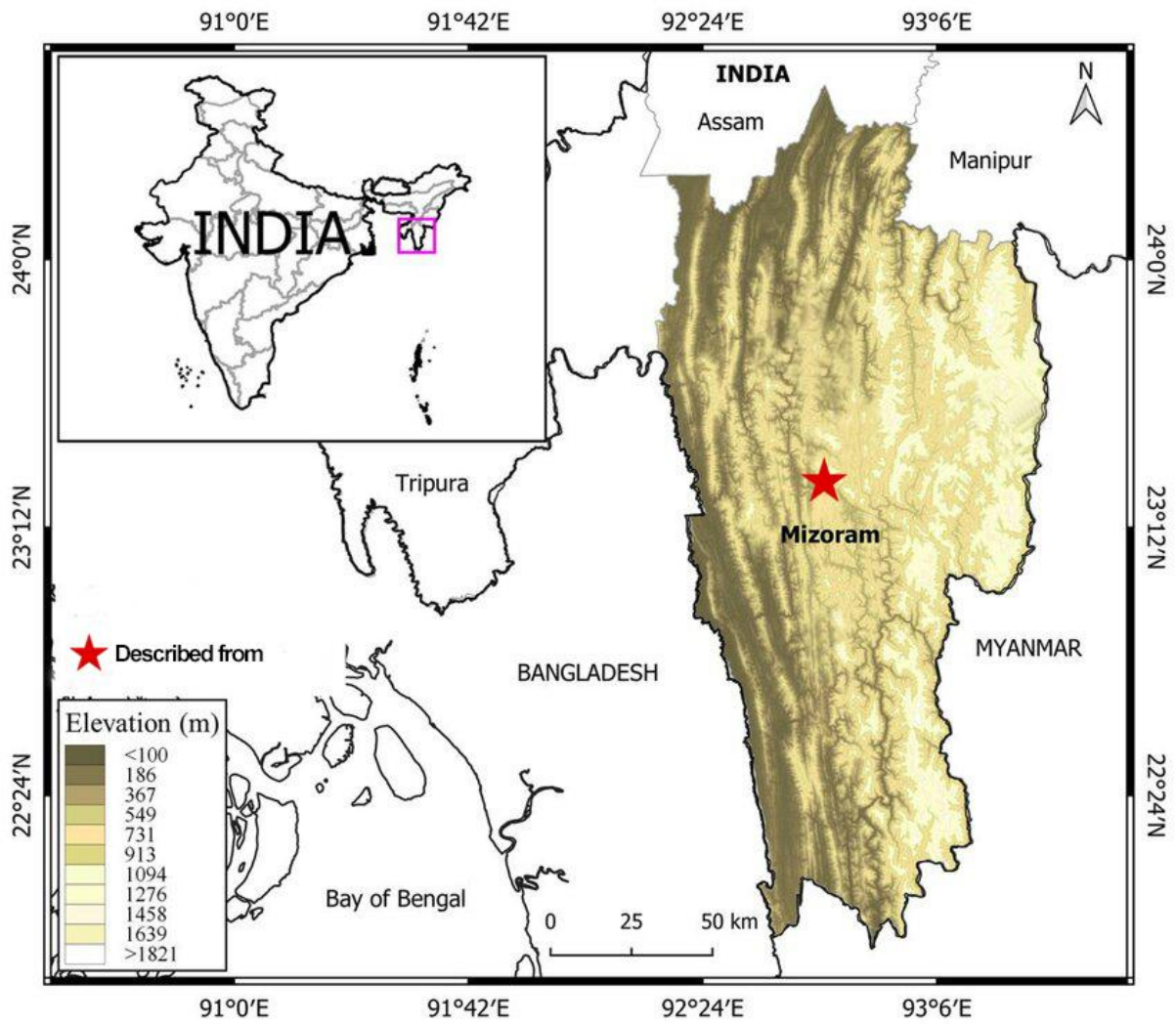
- Body moderately slender; trunk length is slightly more than half of the snout to vent length; dorsal scales heterogeneous, mostly rounded granular scales.
- Dorsum of the head, body and limbs are dark brown; head is primarily dark brown in colour intermixed with a few whitish spots towards the posterior end of the head
- Forearm and tibia short; digits laterally compressed, without a scansorial pad strongly inflected at each joint bearing robust, and recurved claws.
- Tail complete, with nine distinct dark-brown bands separated by transverse greyish bands. The thigh, hind limbs and forelimbs are primarily dark brown with indistinct cream-coloured blotches. Ventral region is off white in colour.
- 7-8 precloacal femoral pores in male.

Described from: Aizawl (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Crevices and clefts of retaining walls, streambed



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Cyrtodactylus bengkhuaiai Purkayastha, Lalremsanga, Bohra, Biakzuala, Decemson, Muansanga, Vabeiryureilai & Rathee, 2021

Common name: Bengkhuaia's Bent-toed gecko

Characters:

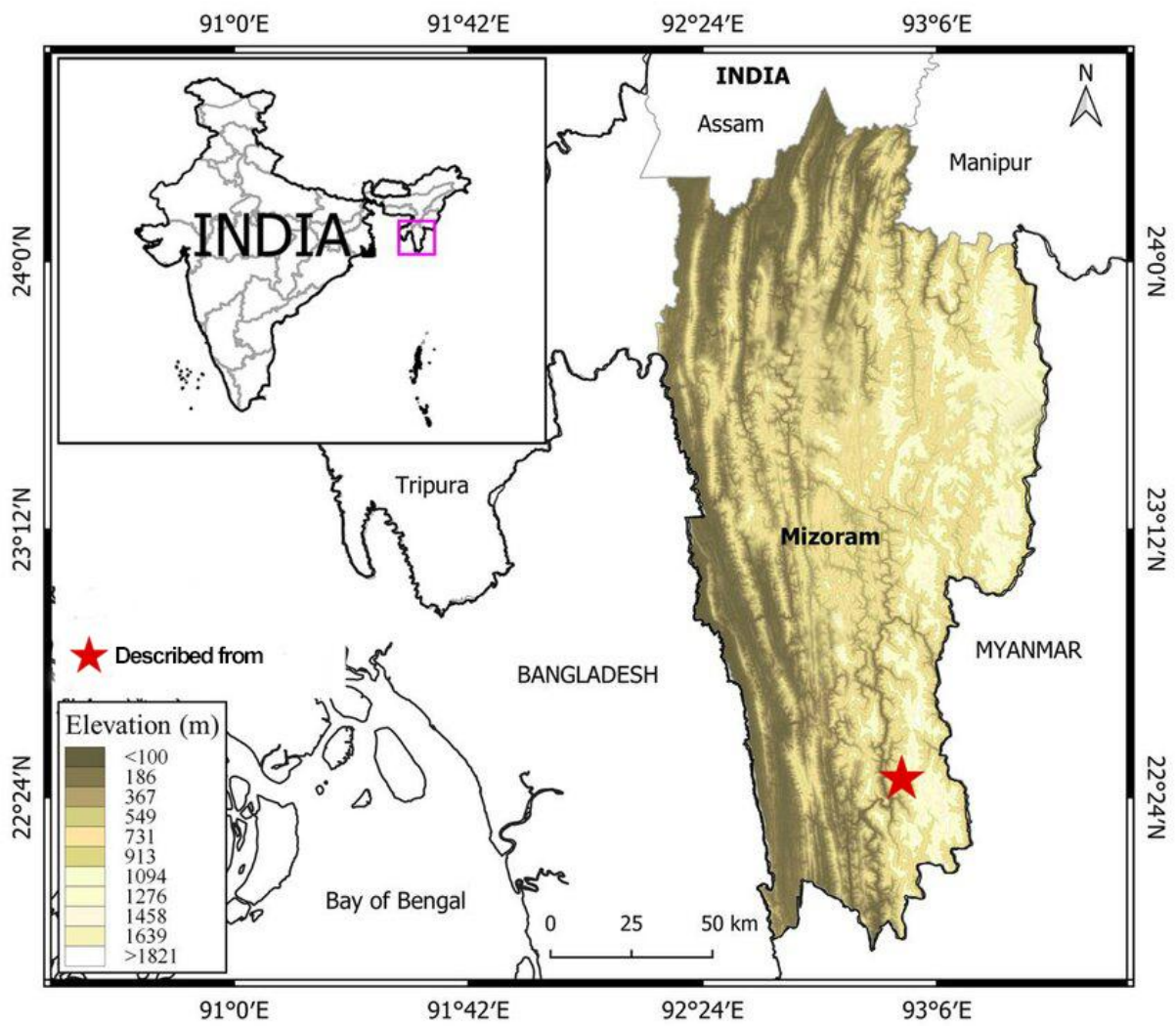
- Body moderately slender with heterogeneous dorsal scales; trunk length is less than half of the snout to vent length. Yellowish brown Dorsum with dark brown markings bordered by white patches. Lateral side of the head with prominent dark brown stripe runs from snout to the eye passing through below the eye, terminating just above the ear opening.
- Dorsal surface of the head is primarily yellowish brown with dark brown patches forming a reticulation pattern; Ventral side with off white in colour without any markings.
- Forearm short and tibia moderate; digits laterally compressed, without a scansorial pad, strongly inflected at each joint bearing robust and recurved claw.
- Dorsal surface of the tail with small granular scales intermixed with tubercles, ventral surface with imbricate scales heterogeneous in size being larger in the middle. Three large conical tubercles present on each side of the ventral surface of at the tail base. No transversely enlarged subcaudal plates.
- 5-7 precloacal femoral pores in male.

Described from: Sailam (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Leaf near a slow flowing stream



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Cyrtodactylus siahaensis Purkayastha, Lalremsanga, Litho, RATHEE, Bohra, Mathipi, Biakzuala & Muansanga, 2022

Common name: Siaha bent-toed gecko.

Characters:

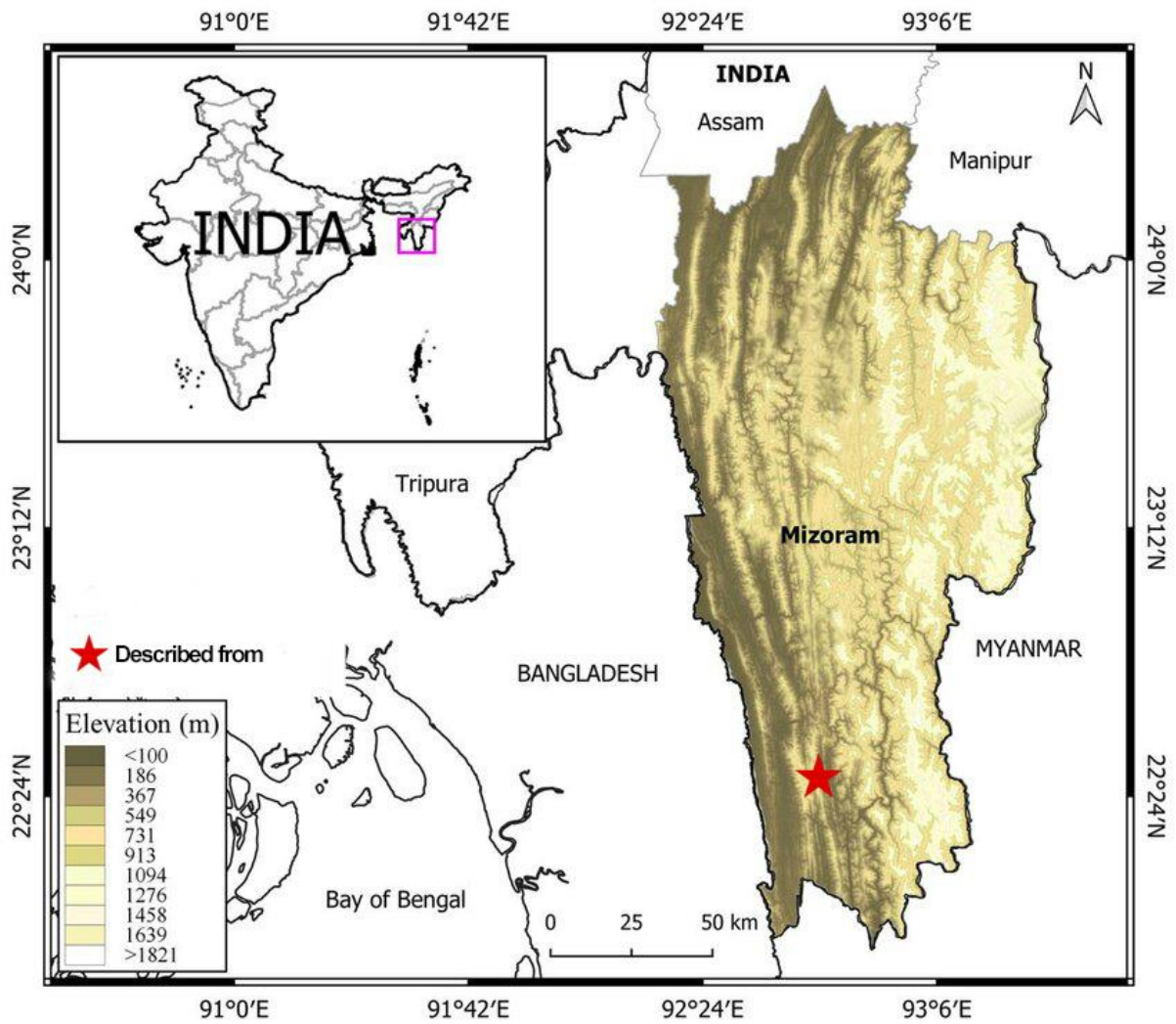
- Moderate-sized gecko with head longer than broad with flat interorbital area with greenish brown in colour. Brown Dorsum with a greenish tinge; nape has indistinct 'W-shaped' marking intermixed with whitish spots. Body moderately slender with heterogeneous dorsal scales; trunk length is less than half of the snout to vent length.
- Snout less than half of the head length. Vertical pupil with crenulate margins; ear opening oval, obliquely orientated and small. Rostrum wider than long, partially and dorsally divided by a poorly developed rostral groove. Nostrils semicircular, openings laterally orientated with posterior half covered by nasal pad.
- Forearm short with moderate tibia; digits laterally compressed. Forelimbs and Hindlimbs scales are heterogeneous in size; ventral portion covered with imbricate scales; dorsal surfaces of the thighs and shanks have slightly larger scales, intermixed with feebly keeled tubercles. Anterior portion of thighs and ventral aspect of hindlimbs have enlarged, smooth, imbricate scales.
- Tails with oval in cross-section, dorsoventrally depressed with alternating dark and light bands with off-white ventral region.
- 7 precloacal femoral pores in male.

Described from: Siaha (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Crevices and clefts of retaining walls



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Cyrtodactylus ngengpuiensis Boruah, Narayanan, Lalronunga, Deepak & Das, 2024

Common name: Ngengpui bent-toed gecko

Characters:

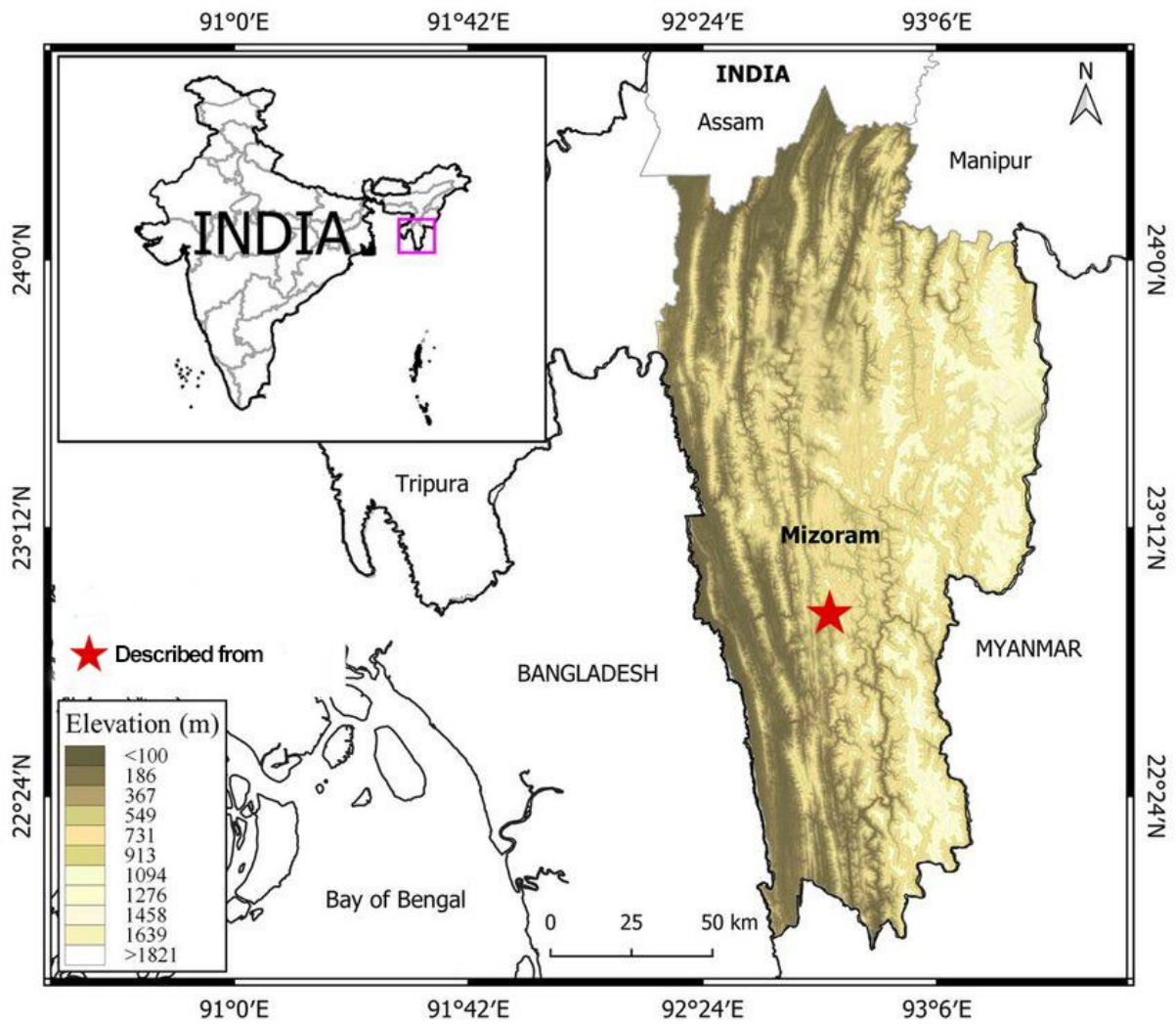
- Moderate-sized gecko with moderately large and dorsoventrally depressed head, distinct from neck, and broader at occipital region. Head pale-brown with indistinct pale-cream-coloured spots on anterior part with few dark-brown patches on upper eyelids; short snout with rounded tip in both dorsal and lateral view.
- Body slender, dorsoventrally depressed; dorsal scales granular, rounded, heterogeneous, intermixed with rounded, weakly keeled and bluntly conical tubercles irregularly arranged. Trunk whitish with pinkish tinge, scales with brown marbling; some in pale-yellow color above and below the cloaca.
- Forelimbs and hindlimbs slender; digits strongly inflected at the joints, all bearing large recurved claw, enlarged with sub digital lamellae
- Complete and slender Tail tapering towards the tip; segments indistinct, dorsal scales granular, and heterogeneous in shape and size with slightly dense brown marbling.
- 27 precloacal femoral pores in male.

Described from: Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary, Lawngtlai (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Crevices and clefts of retaining walls



Photo credit: Samuel Lalronunga



***Cyrtodactylus lungleiensis* Lalremsanga, Chinliansiam, Chandra, Biakzuala, Vabeiryureilai, Muansanga, Malsawmdawngliana, Hmar, Decemson, Siammawii, Das, & Purkayastha, 2022**

Common name: Lunglei bent-toed gecko.

Characters:

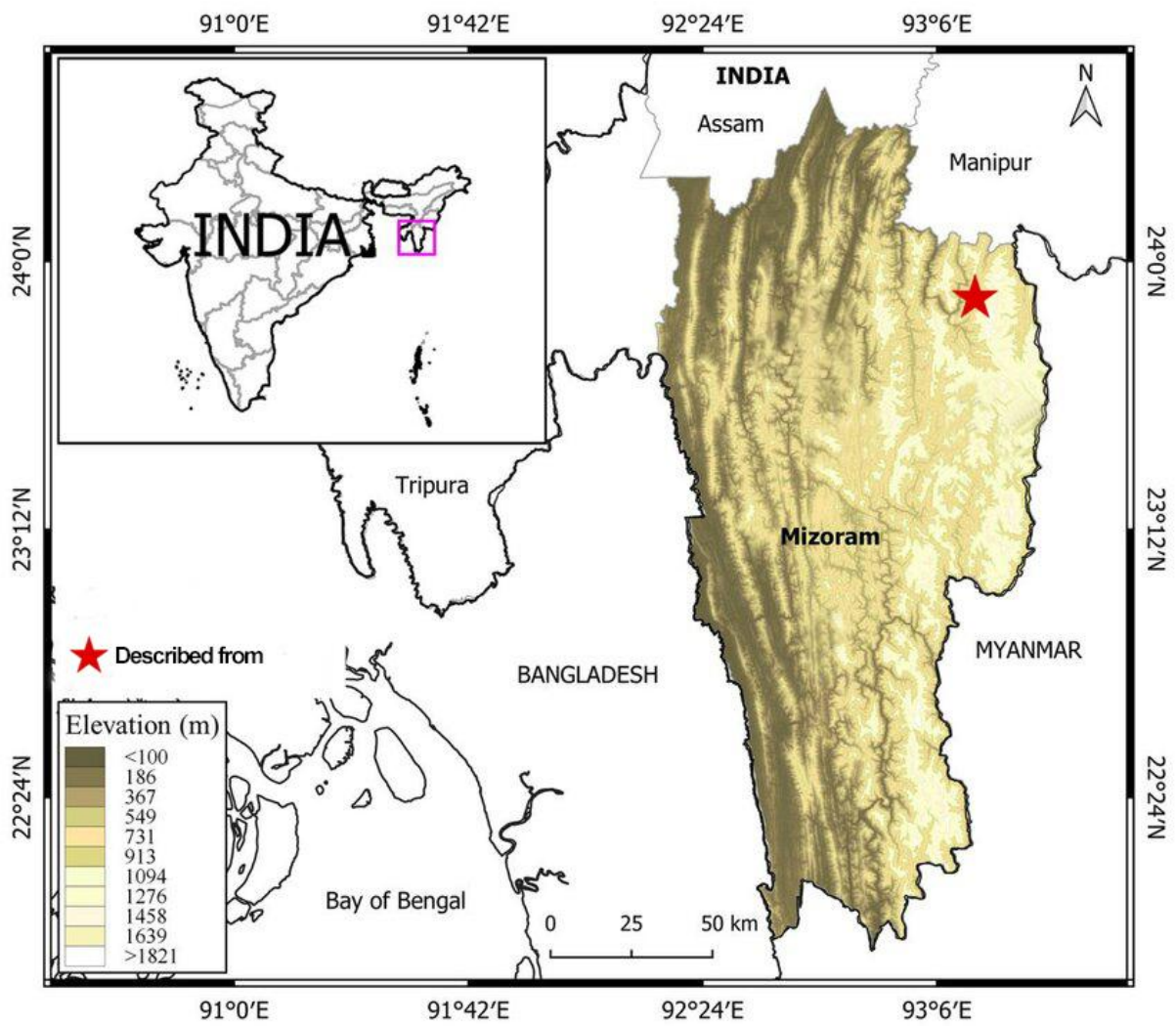
- Moderate-sized gecko with moderately slender body; scales heterogeneous, mostly rounded granular scales, intermixed with irregularly arranged, enlarged tubercles, bluntly conical and feebly keeled.
- Broad Head with length slightly more than one-quarter of the snout to vent length, somewhat depressed primarily brown in color with few gray patches on posterior end of both orbits. Dorsum grayish brown in color, and Nape with a dark brown “W” shaped marking.
- Forelimbs and hindlimbs slender; digits laterally compressed bearing robust, recurved claws; sub digital lamellae transversely widened beneath the basal phalanx,
- The tail has alternating bluish gray and dark brown bands; posterior end of the tail is dark brown in colour.
- 3-5 precloacal femoral pores in male.

Described from: Lunglei Town (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Crevices and clefts of rock bedding



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Cyrtodactylus ngopensis Bohra, Zonunsanga, Das, Purkayastha, Biakzuala & Lalremsanga, 2022

Common name: Ngopa bent-toed gecko.

Characters:

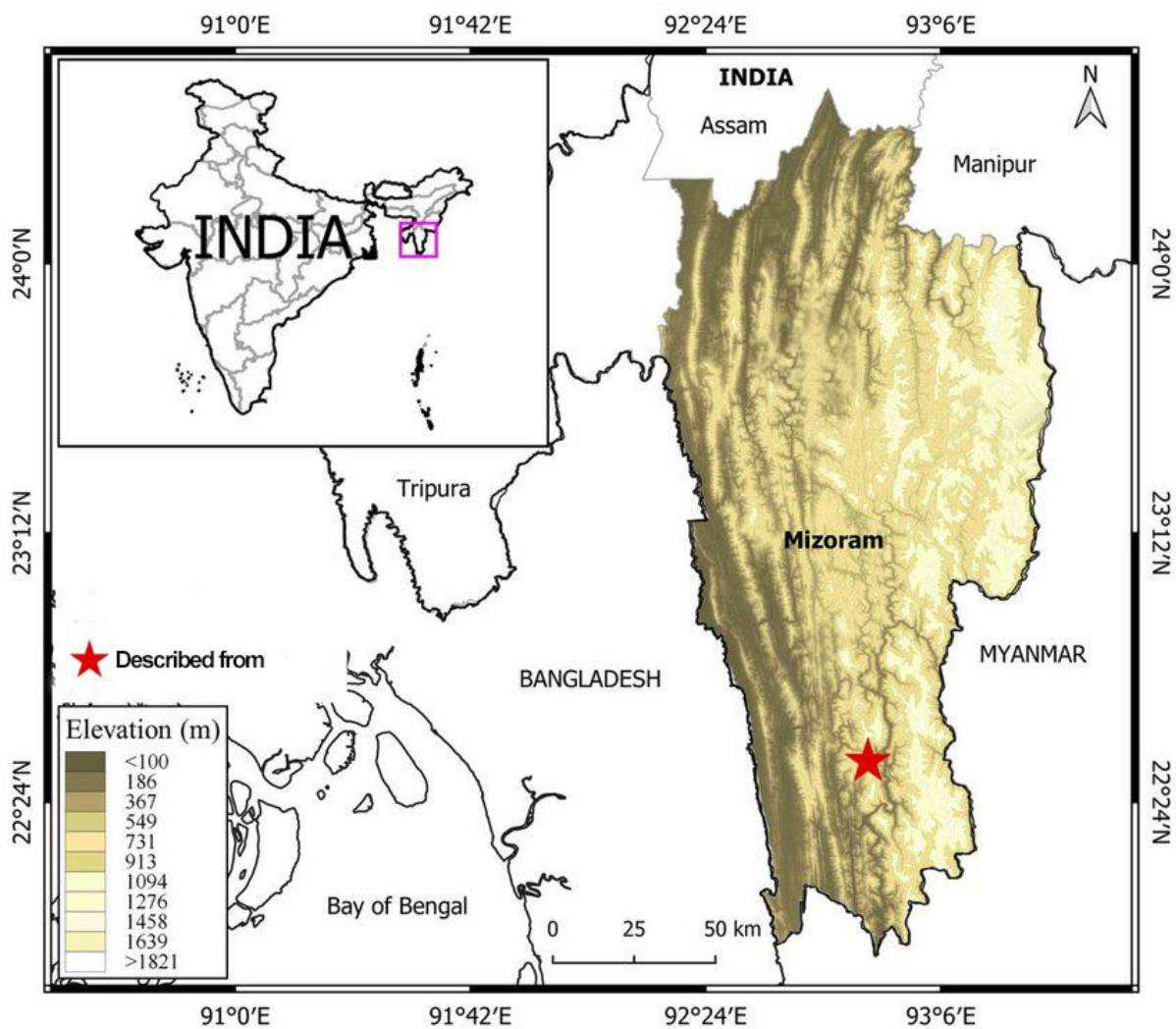
- Moderate-sized gecko with slender body, trunk length approximately half of the snout to vent length; heterogeneous dorsal scales, small rounded granule-like scales intermixed with irregularly arranged enlarged tubercles.
- Dorsum and dorsal surface of head primarily greyish brown in colour; nape with distinct chevron which is divided at the middle with nine pairs of indistinct dark brown blotches on the dorsum.
- Scales on the fore limbs are heterogeneous in size, and comprising flat; while those on forearms are heterogeneous in size. Scales on the hind limbs are heterogeneous in size with slightly enlarged scales, and keeled tubercles; anterior portion of thighs and ventral aspect of hind limbs have slightly enlarged, smooth, imbricate scales.
- Fore limbs and hind limbs have indistinct whitish or cream-coloured blotches intermixed with dark brown blotches.
- Tail oval in cross section with alternating dark brown and transverse white bands, dorsoventrally depressed, and dorsal tubercles on the tail base are enlarged with tubercles. Ventral surface is off-white in colour
- 6 precloacal femoral pores in male.

Described from: Ngopa (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Crevice between dried rotten wood and a sand wall



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Gekko mizoramensis Lalremsanga, Muansanga, Vabeiryureilai & Mirza, 2023

Common name: Mizoram Parachute Gecko

Characters:

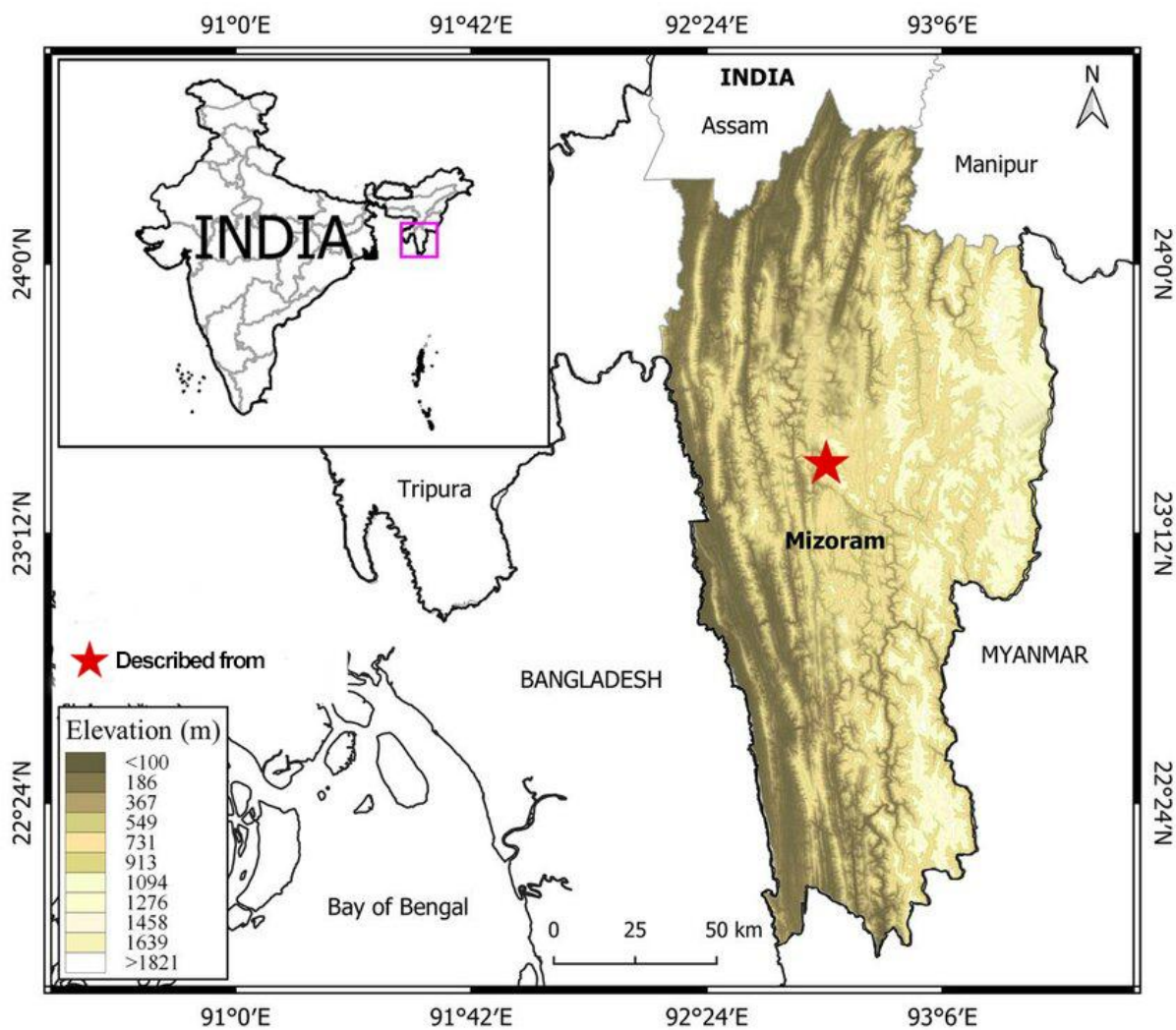
- Body dorsoventrally depressed; Grey with darker grey blotches edged with black and black reticulations on the head, and paired black bands on the trunk and the tail. The nape exhibits a sub-ovate mark, temporal region with undefined reticulate pattern
- housed patagia along the forelimbs, trunk and hind limbs. Exhibit supra-nasals not in contact; supra-labials of which the 9th or 10th situated at mid-orbit; 9–10 infralabials; caudal tubercles present
- 32 ventral scales; no enlarged femoral scales; 12 enlarged non-pored (at least in females) precloacal scales in a transverse row; 5 rows of enlarged post-precloacal scales; 14–17 sub-digital lamellae under the fourth toe; enlarged dorsal caudal scales form whorls.
- Tail alternately banded with five dark- and light-coloured bands and has a dark tip. Legs are patterned with diffuse reticulations. The ventral side is cream coloured, but the underside of the tail exhibits the same banded pattern as the dorsal side.

Described from: Chawnhu, Lawngtlai District (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Barks, Walls of human settlement



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



FAMILY - AGAMIDAE

Calotes zolaiking Giri, Chaitanya, Mahony, Lalronunga, Lalrinchhana, Das, Sakar, Karanth & Deepak, 2019

Common name: Mizoram Montane Forest Lizard

Characters:

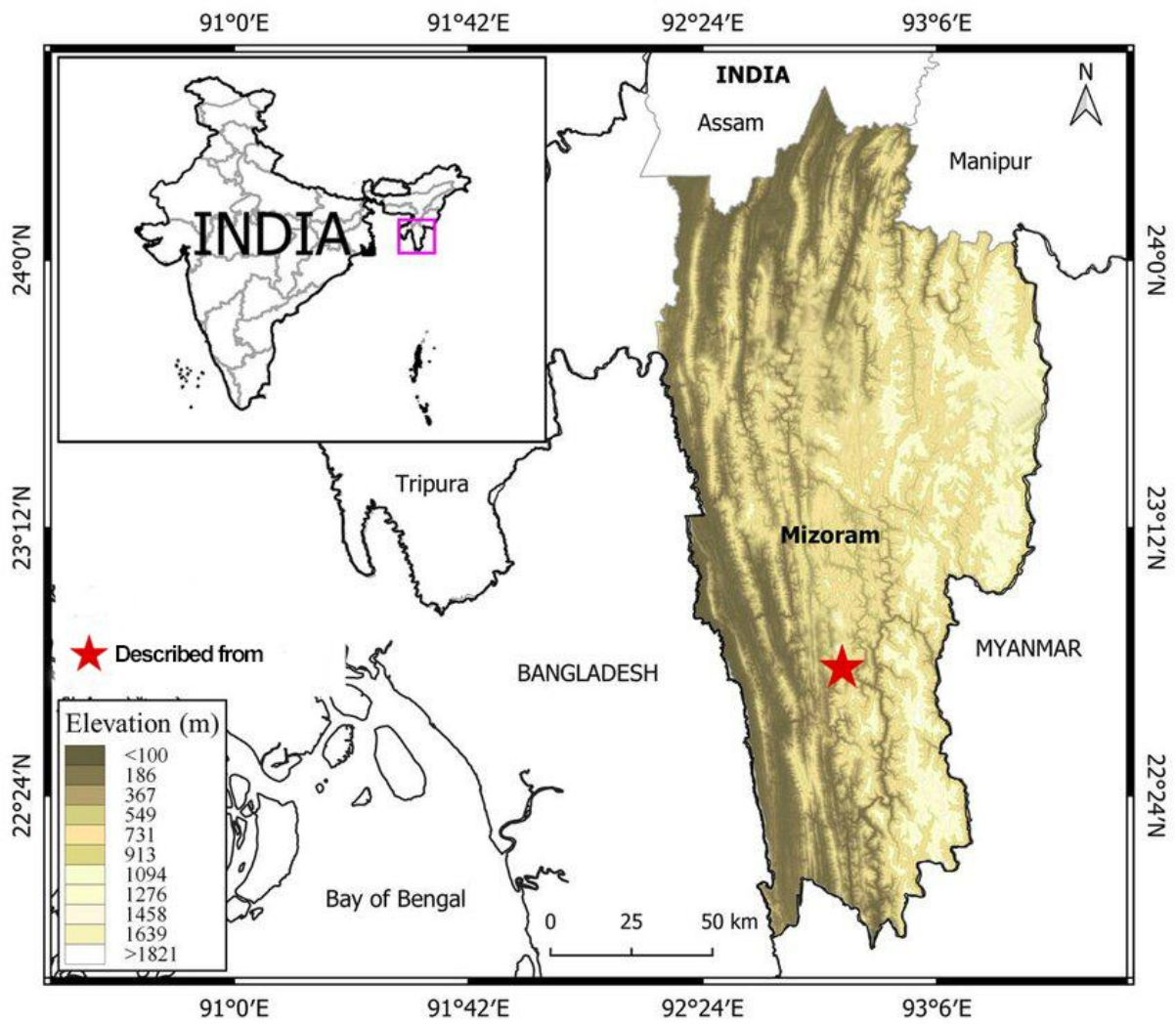
- A medium sized Calotes with feebly compressed dorsal crest; scales on top of head highly heterogeneous; scales surrounding parietal are unequal in size; three spines on each side of head, one above orbit, one above tympanum and one on temporal region, stripes may be primarily green or light brown. Two thin white longitudinal stripes on upper flanks extend from rear of head to base of tail. Region below orbit and lateral surface of snout white, with narrow white and brown radial stripes extending from eye.
- Dorsal scales heterogeneous, composed of medium sized, strongly keeled scales intermixed with similar but slightly larger scales, upper rows directed backwards and upwards and a few lower rows directed backwards.
- Tympanum small; eight to nine supra-labials and seven to ten infralabials; lamellae bicarinate. Tail rounded with faint light and darker brown bands. Ventral surfaces whitish, throat with irregularly arranged dark mottling or thin stripes.

Described from: Hmuifang (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Crevice between dried rotten wood and a sand wall



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Cristidorsa otai (Mahony, 2009)

Common name: Ota's mountain Lizard

Characters:

- A small size lizard with head robust and relatively wide; scales of lateral head keeled; nuchal and dorsal crest feeble; post-occipital and post-orbital spines absent
- Gular scales mostly homogeneous in size; size of scales on lateral jaw subequal in size across gular region; single pair of distinctively enlarged conical scales present on nape above shoulder, one scale on each side of vertebral crest.
- Dorsal scale significantly heterogeneous in sizes and shapes; distinct, dorsolateral rows of enlarged, keeled scales present on dorsum, and V-shaped ridges present along dorsal midline, formed by enlarged, keeled scales

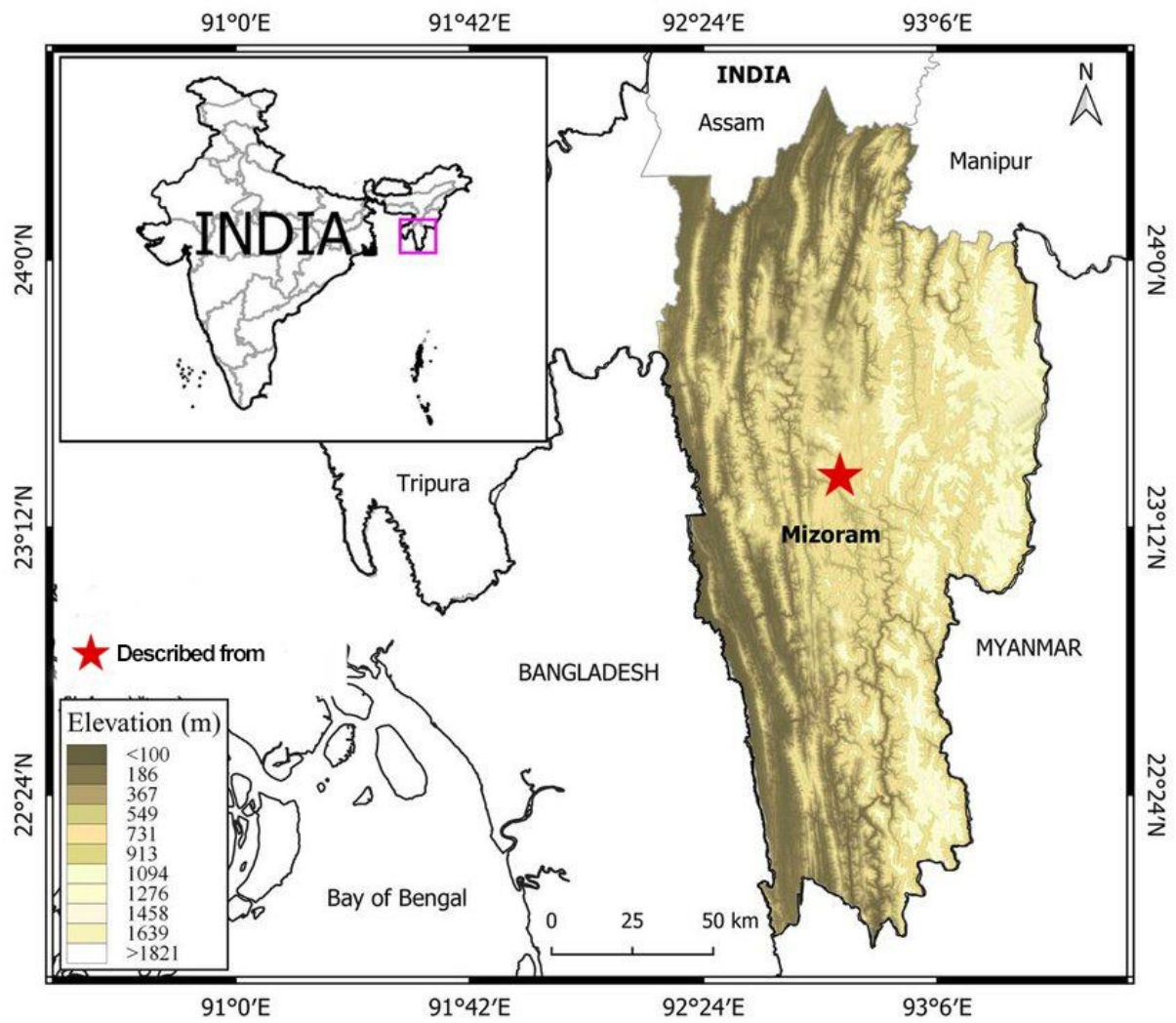
Described from: Sairep Tlang, Lunglei (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Forest floor, twigs and barks



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga

FROGS & TOADS



FAMILY - MEGOPHRYIDAE

Xenophrys serchippi Sengupta, Sailo, Lalremsanga, Das & Das, 2010

Common name: Warty Horned Frog

Characters:

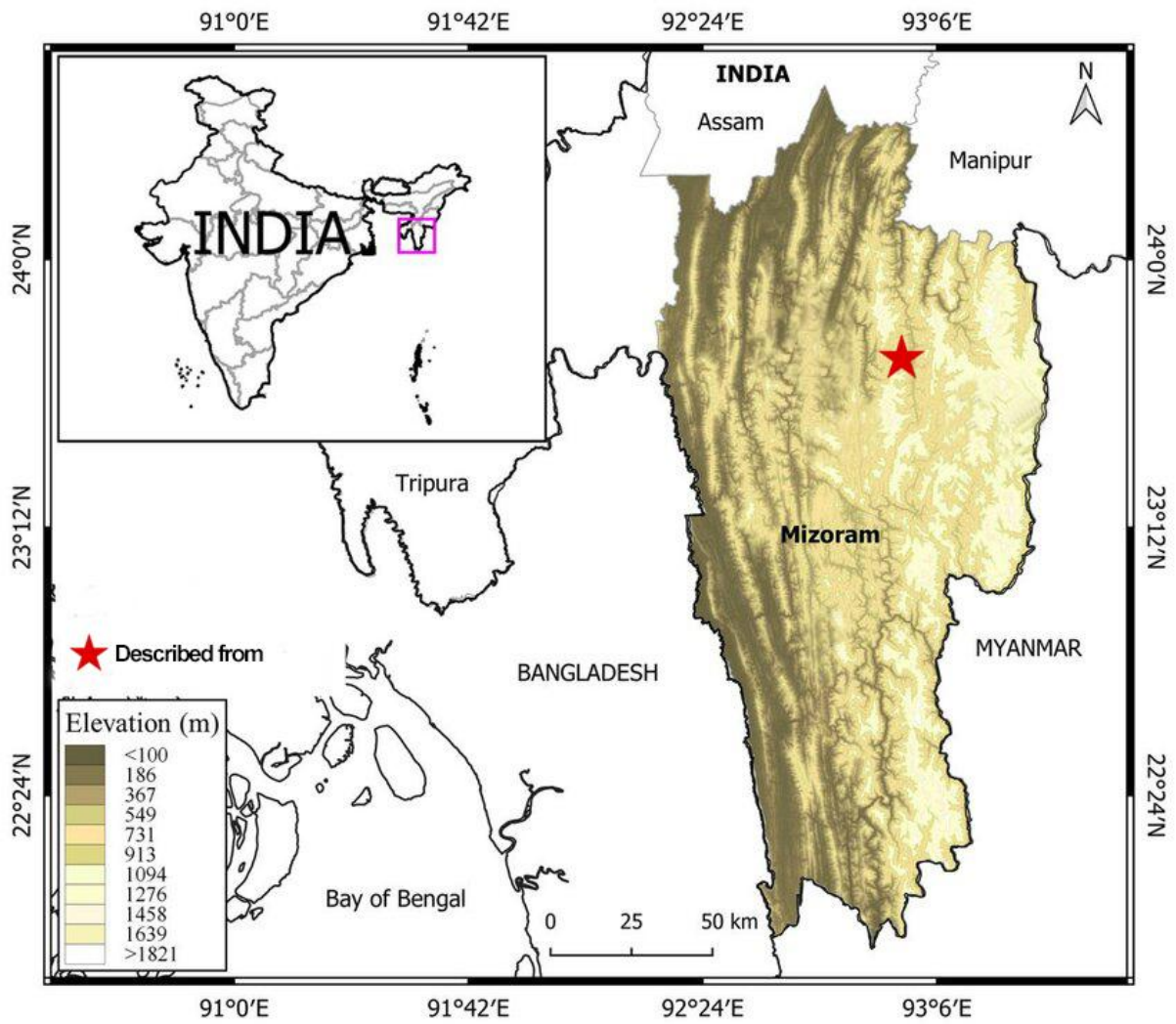
- Mid-sized frog with mid-grey forehead and dorsum; inverted, hourglass shaped dark grey blotch in interorbital region. Eyes are light grey with bright orange iris pigmentation on the upper-half. Pupil vertically ellipsoid with black colour. Fingers and toes lined with faint dark transverse stripes, tips are whitish and almost transparent
- Gular and abdominal regions pale grey; abdominal region unpatterned cream; pale preanal glands
- Short Fore limbs; forearm not enlarged; fingers slender with rounded tips, free of web or skin fringes; relative length of fingers: $\text{III} > \text{II} > \text{I} > \text{IV}$. Nuptial pads absent on fingers.
- Hind limbs long; toe- tips weakly differentiated, not truncate apically; distinct lateral fringes present on inner aspects of all toes; toes webbed up to base of phalanges; relative length of toes: $4 > 3 > 5 > 2 > 1$.

Described from: Serchhip Town (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Crevice between dried rotten wood and a sand wall



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Leptobrachella tamdil (Sengupta, Sailo, Lalremsanga, Das & Das, 2010)

Common name: Tamdil Leaf-litter Frog

Characters:

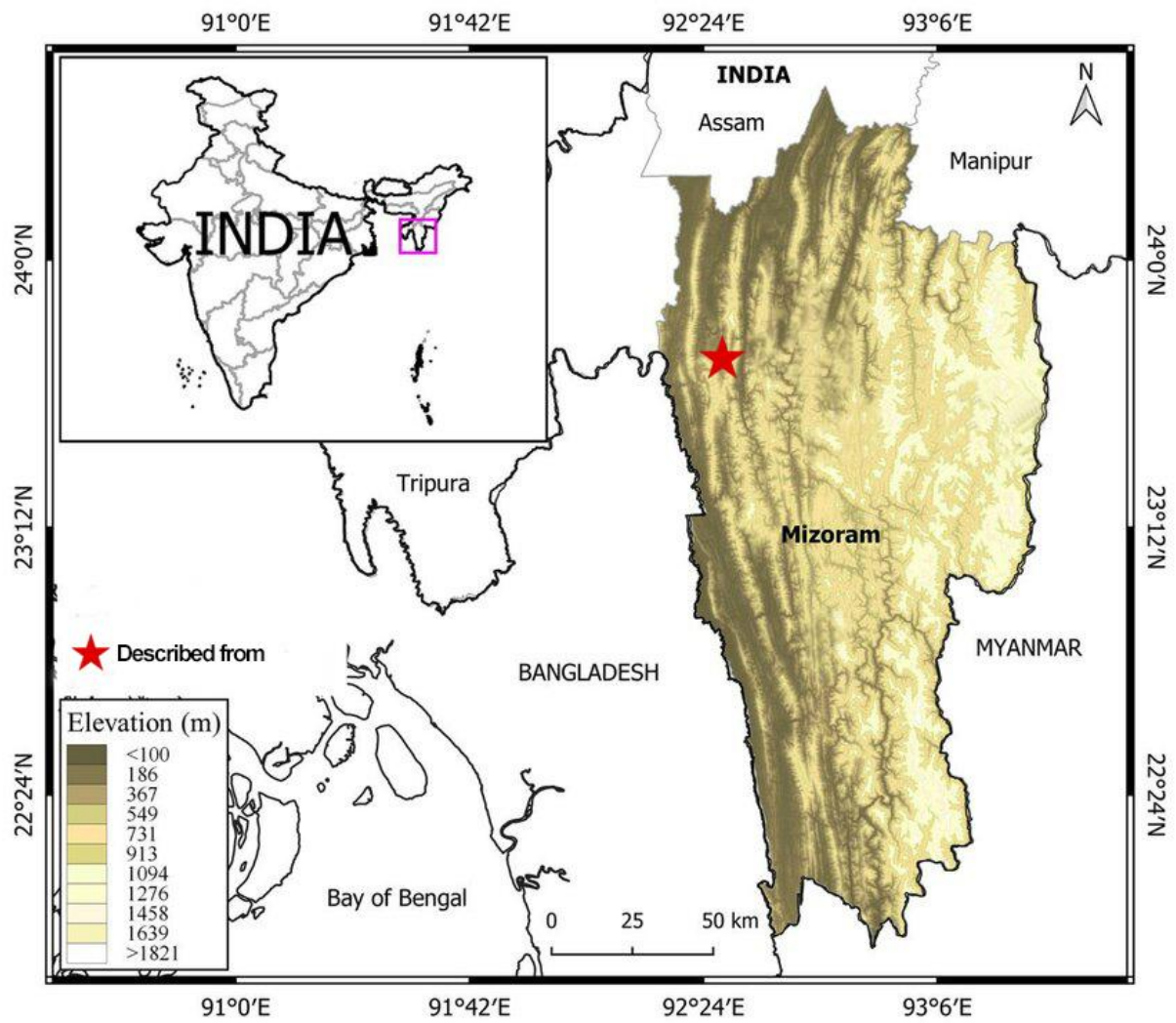
- Mid-sized frog with mid-grey forehead and dorsum; inverted, hourglass shaped dark grey blotch in interorbital region. Eyes are light grey with bright orange iris pigmentation on the upper-half. Pupil vertically ellipsoid with black colour. Fingers and toes lined with faint dark transverse stripes, tips are whitish and almost transparent
- Gular and abdominal regions pale grey; abdominal region unpatterned cream; pale preanal glands
- Short Fore limbs; forearm not enlarged; fingers slender with rounded tips, free of web or skin fringes; relative length of fingers: $III > II > I > IV$. Nuptial pads absent on fingers.
- Hind limbs long; toe- tips weakly differentiated, not truncate apically; distinct lateral fringes present on inner aspects of all toes; toes webbed up to base of phalanges; relative length of toes: $4 > 3 > 5 > 2 > 1$.
- Dorsum weakly tuberculate with oval tubercles; snout smooth; upper eyelids with small tubercles; vocal opening close to rictus.

Described from: Tamdil National Wetland, Saitual District (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Crevice between dried rotten wood and a sand wall



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



FAMILY - BUFONIDAE

Bufoides bhupathyi Naveen, Tapley, Chandramouli, Jervis, Babu, Meetei & Karunakaran, 2023

Common name: Mizoram rock toad.

Characters:

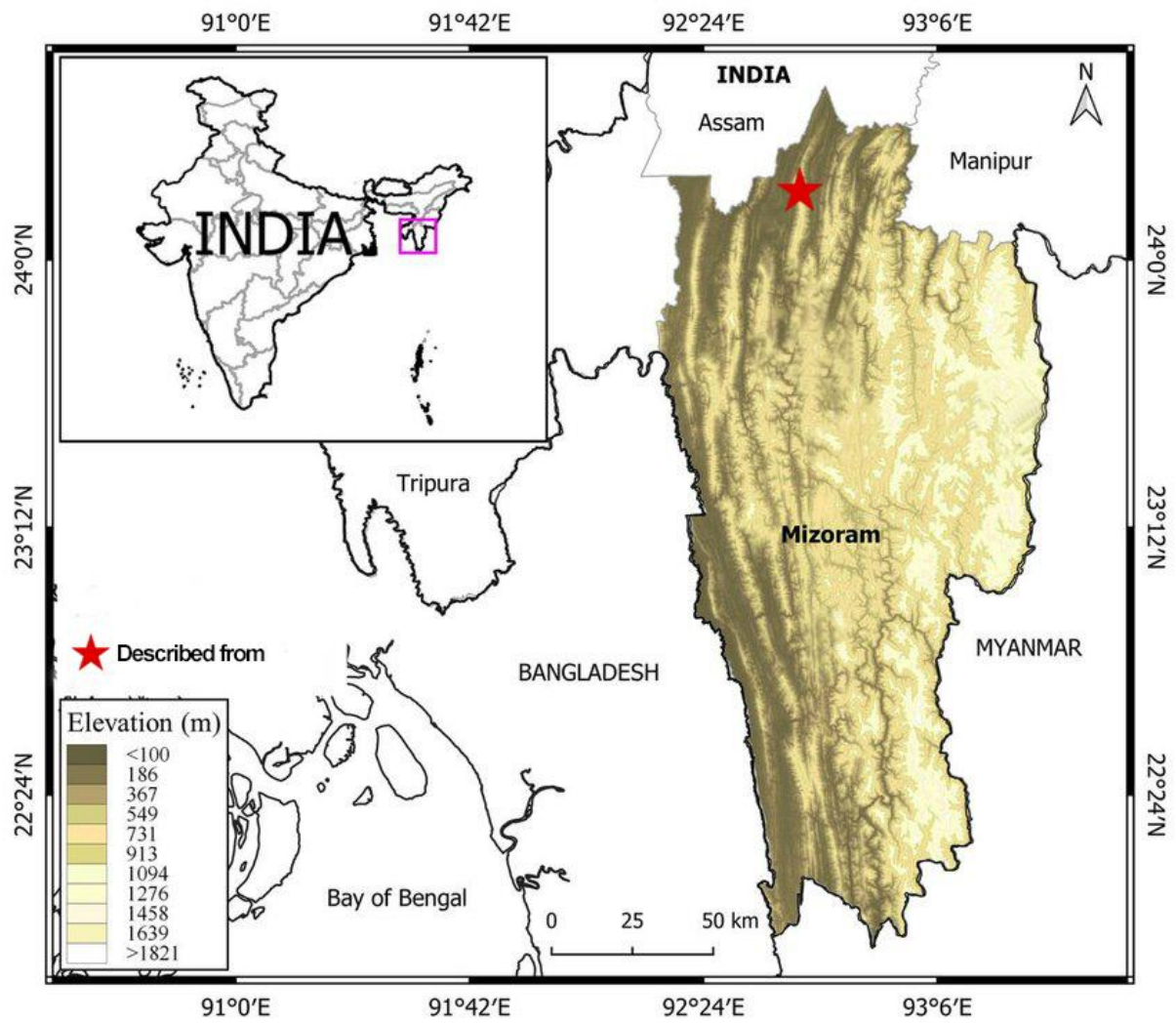
- Small saxicolous species with weakly defined irregular cranial ridges with pre-orbital, canthal and post-orbital ridges present and ovoid, depressed, and tuberculated parotoid glands.
- Tympanum not visible externally. Pupil - oval, horizontally elongated when dilated.
- In male, dorsal uniformly dark brownish black with faint traces of pale-yellow reticulations on flanks while females with uniformly brownish black with only faint traces of yellow in flanks in females. Snout, inter-orbital region, lateral surfaces of head, upper part of flanks, forelimbs, hands, hind limbs, feet and dorsal surface covered with small to medium-sized black conical tubercles.
- Ventral surfaces of body, head, hands and thighs cream brown with greyish black belly and flanks. Ventral surface of tibio-fibula and feet pale brown in color.

Described from: Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mamit (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Moist, cool canopy-shaded rock outcrops in subtropical and moist deciduous forest with elevational ranges of 1000-1200 m asl and 100-250 m asl. Rock crevices.



Photo credit: Original paper



Duttaphrynus mizoramensis (Mathew and Sen, 2010)

Common name: Kolasib's Toad/Kolasib's True Toad (Mizo - Uṭawk)

Characters:

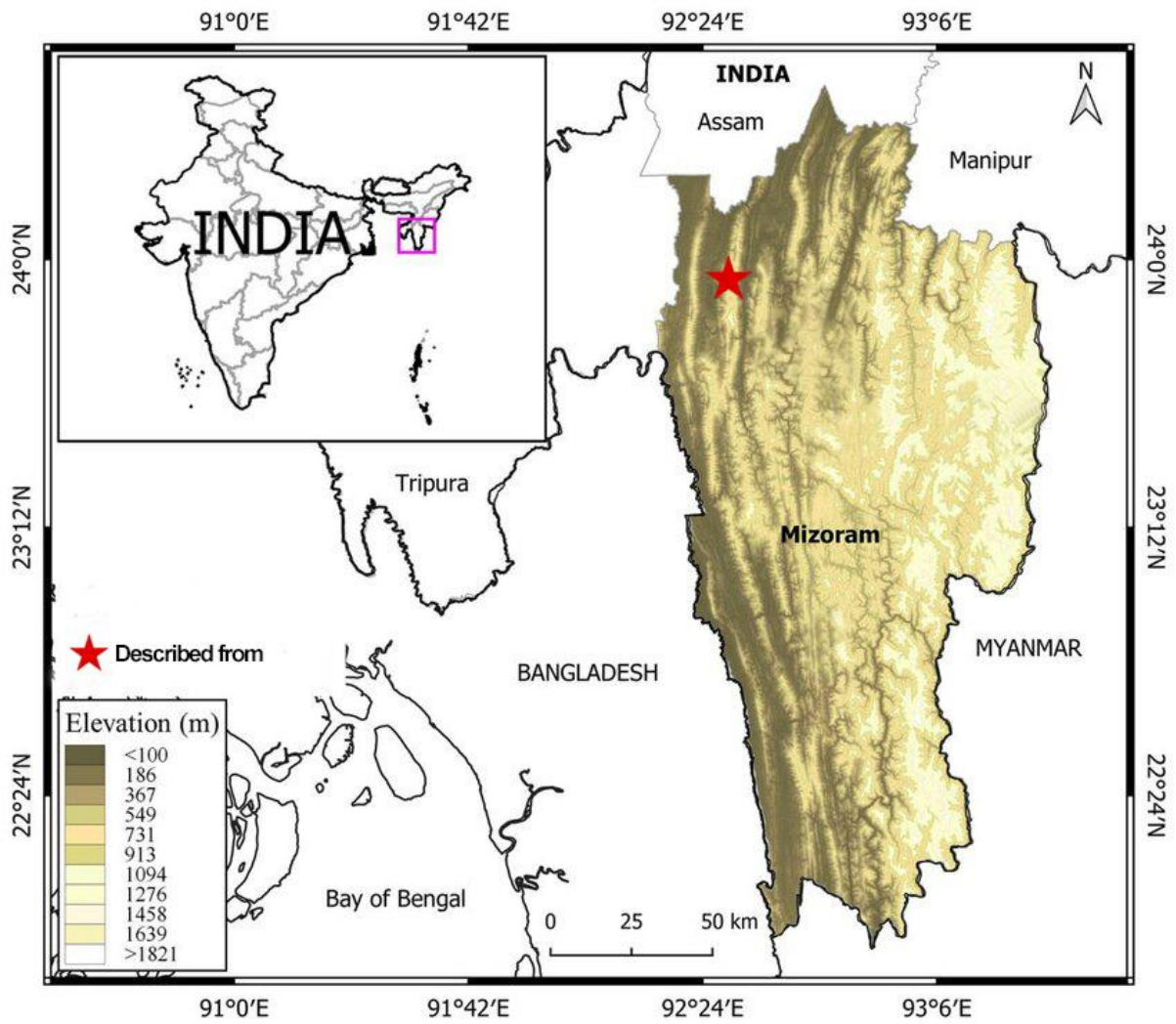
- Small to medium size toads
- Female SVL reaches about 58–60 mm in length
- Head broader than long
- Tympanum distinguished as not like *D. chandai*
- Inner and outer metatarsal tubercle present and is of the same size
- Parotid gland length about 1/6 of SVL

Described from: Kolasib (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Forest floors, drains, grounds in vicinity of human settlements.



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



Duttaphrynus mamitensis (Mathew and Sen, 2009)

Common name: Mamit's Toad/ Mamit's True Toad (Mizo - Uṭawk)

Characters:

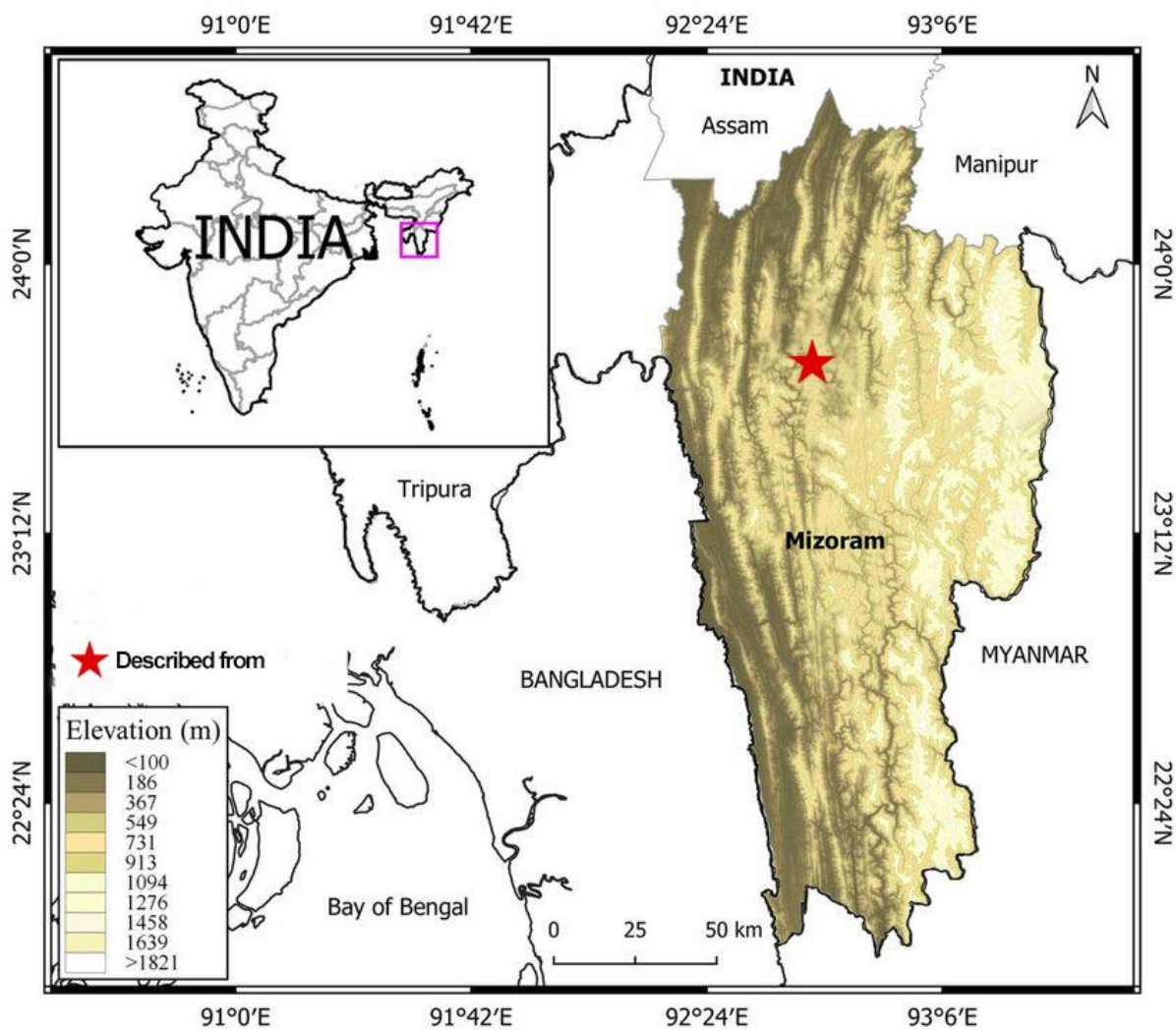
- Large sized toads
- Tympanum distinguished
- No cranial ridge
- Head broader than long
- Short hind limbs
- Outer metatarsal tubercle is half size of inner metatarsal tubercle
- Male SVL ranges about 89 mm in length

Described from: Mausen, Mamit district, Mizoram

Habit & Habitat: Ground dwelling anuran found near human settlements as well as forest.



Photo credit: Lalmuansanga



FAMILY - ICHTHYOPHIIDAE

Ichthyophis benji Lalremsanga, Purkayastha, Biakzuala, Vabeiryureilai, Muansanga, and Hmar, 2021

Common name: Benji's Caecilian/Benji's Striped Caecilian (Mizo – Chhawknghawl)

Characters:

- Distinct, narrow, and bright yellow lateral stripe bordered by a darker ventrolateral longitudinal stripe running from the head to the vent.
- Head and nuchal region dorsoventrally compressed; ventral surface slightly fattened in the trunk region. Head somewhat more V- than U-shaped in dorsal view; splenial teeth present.
- Eyes are small, externally visible; tentacle positioned close to lip than eye.
- Primary annuli > 300; vertebrae > 125; dorsal AGs 388-422; W/S ratio 5.1 – 5.6; LH ration 25.1 – 28.9; (TN/TE < 2; PMs 38 – 39; OMs 29 - 37, and EMs 29 – 35.
- Tail is short, ends in terminal disc.

Described from: Aizawl (Mizoram)

Habit & Habitat: Moist soils, humus-rich leaf litter, under rotting logs, near small streams and forest floor. Encountered during rainy season.



Photo credit: Prof. H.T. Lalremsanga

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