

Smithophis leptofasciatus

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Smithophis leptofasciatus Latest News

A team of researchers from Mizoram University recently discovered a new species of rain snake named Smithophis leptofasciatus.

About Smithophis leptofasciatus

- It is a **new species of rain snake** belonging to the genus Smithophis.
- The species name leptofasciatus is derived from Greek and Latin, meaning “narrow-banded,” referencing its distinctive dorsal markings.
- It is commonly referred to as the **narrow-banded rain snake**.
- It was discovered in the **tropical montane forests of Mizoram**.
- The new species is distinguished by its **narrow, incomplete creamish-white or yellowish-lime transverse bands** on a shiny **black body**—features that set it apart from its close relatives.
- It was found inhabiting **humid, shaded microhabitats near small streams** in montane forests between 900 and 1,200 meters above sea level.

- Its **semi-aquatic, nocturnal lifestyle** was revealed through field observations during the monsoon.
- This brings the **total number of known Smithophis species to five, all discovered in northeastern India** and its surrounding areas.
 - These snakes are commonly **referred to as 'rain snakes'** because they **thrive in wet habitats**, often found near streams and other water sources.

Source: [HT](#)

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