

Egg laying and neonate morphology of the stout sand snake *Psammophis longifrons*

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METHODS

The length of hatchlings was measured using a string and ruler to nearest mm. Ventral scales were counted following Dowling (1951). The number of dorsal scale rows was counted at mid-body. Subcaudal counts reported here do not include the terminal scute. The number of supralabials in contact with the eyes is given in brackets next to the number of supralabials. Values for symmetric head characters are given in right to left order. Gender of the hatchlings was not determined. Description style follows Patel et al. (2015) with some modifications.

DESCRIPTION OF HATCHLINGS

The measurements and pholidosis of the 15 hatchlings are presented in Table 1S. The description of the hatchlings is as follows - head short, longer than wide, distinct from neck, eyes circular with round pupil; nostrils small; body circular. Dorsal ground colour was light brown to tan with black edged vertebral scales forming a black stripe arising from neck up to the tail, stripe becoming indistinguishable on tail; supralabials tawny; underside cream white. The pholidosis as follows - dorsal scale rows smooth, glossy, in 17 rows at mid-body; with single apical pit on the posterior margin; ventrals 164–177; anal divided; subcaudals 92–101, divided; rostral as wide as high, visible from above; 2 internasals, as long as wide; 2 prefrontals, longer than wide, twice as long as the internasals; frontal sub-hexagonal, twice longer than wide; parietals longer than wide, as long as frontal; 1 loreal, twice longer than high, touching 2nd and 3rd supralabials; 1 preocular reaching top of head; 2 postoculars; 2 anterior temporal scales; 2–3 posterior temporal scales; 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touch the eye.

REFERENCE

- Dowling, H.G. (1951). A proposed standard system of counting ventrals in snakes. *British Journal of Herpetology* 1(5): 97–99.
- Patel, H., Vyas, R. & Tank, S.K. (2015). On the distribution, taxonomy and natural history of the Indian Smooth Snake, *Coronella brachyura* (Gunther, 1866). *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* 9(2): 120–125.

Table 1S. Egg and hatchling measurements (mm) and scale counts of the *Psammophis longifrons* from Gujarat, India

No.	Egg size (length x width)	Snout vent length	Tail length	Total length	Dorsal scale rows	Ventral scale count	Subcaudal count	Anal scale	Supra- labial count	Pre- orbital count	Post- orbital count	Temporal scale count
1	34x22	296	73	369	17	169	92	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+2/2+3
2	36x24	294	76	370	17	173	-	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
3	36x23	298	84	382	17	170	96	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
4	35x24	303	86	389	17	168	98	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
5	36x23	287	78	365	17	164	93	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
6	35x22	297	77	374	17	164	94	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
7	34x22	299	80	379	17	168	-	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
8	33x21	293	74	367	17	167	95	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+2/2+2
9	35x23	294	79	373	17	177	101	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+2/2+3
10	33x22	300	81	381	17	175	98	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
11	34x24	282	79	361	17	170	93	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+2/2+3
12	36x24	298	76	374	17	177	100	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
13	35x23	283	77	360	17	170	97	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
14	38x24	303	79	382	17	172	98	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3
15	36x23	300	81	381	17	175	97	Divided	8(4,5)/8(4,5)	1/1	2/2	2+3/2+3