

A check-list of the amphibians and reptiles of Andaman and
Nicobar Islands

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ASSTRACT

A checklist of the amphibians and reptiles known from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is presented. At present, 17 species of amphibians and 77 species of reptiles are known, endemism in these groups being 25.5% and 29.9%, respectively.

The Andamans consist of 291 islands, the Nicobars of 28, both the groups being located in the Bay of Bengal. Floristically, the group of islands collectively referred to as the Andamans are similar to the Tenasserim coast of Myanmar. Ripley and Beehler (1989) hypothesized that these islands may have been once contiguous with the mainland during the Late Pleistocene when sea levels dropped. On the other hand, the Nicobars appear to be a group of truly oceanic islands, its biota presumably being established through over-water dispersal. Nicobar's avifauna has been shown to be an impoverished subset of that of the Andamans by Ripley and Beehler (1989) who contended that drops in sea levels during the Pleistocene failed to join the two island groups because of the deep saltwater strait (the 10° Channel) between the two island groups. The primary colonization source for the herpetofauna of these islands is thought to be Myanmar for the Andamans and Thailand for the Nicobars (Biswas and Sanyal, 1980). However, analysis of faunal composition and affinities of the region is bedeviled by inadequate data, for which fresh field work has been

initiated. The primary sources of information on the herpetofauna are Sarker (1990) for amphibians and Biswas and Sanyal (1977, 1980) for reptiles.

The Andamans have 11 reptile species endemic to the Bay Islands, while the Nicobars has 13, the two island groups sharing six endemic species. In all, 22 species that occur in the Andamans have not been found on the Nicobars, while the Nicobars also have 21 species that have thus far not been reported from the Andamans. The deep 10° Channel that runs between the two island groups is a barrier between the ranges of endemic avian species of both the Andamans and the Nicobars (Ripley and Beehler, 1989).

A checklist of species and subspecies of amphibians and reptiles recorded from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been presented here, largely based on literature records and museum material. At present, 17 species of amphibians and 77 species of reptiles have been recorded. The total endemism at the species level is 4 (25.5%) for amphibians and 23 (29.9%) for reptiles.

CHECKLIST OF AMPHIBIANS

BUFONIDAE

1. *Bufo melanostictus* Schneider, 1799 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
2. *Bufo camortensis* Mansukhani & Sarkar, 1980 :
Distribution : Nicobars (endemic).

MICROHYLIDAE

3. *Kaloula pulchra* (Muller, 1836) :
Kaloula pulchra ghoshi Cherchi, 1954 :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
4. *Micriletta inornata* (Boulenger, 1890) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
5. *Microhyla ornata* (Dumeril & Sibron, 1841) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
6. *Micrahyla chakrani* Pillai, 1977 :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
7. *Microhyla heymonsi* Vogt, 1911 :
Distribution : Nicobars.

RANIDAE

8. *Limnonectes andamanensis* Stoliczka, 1870 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars (endemic).
9. *Limnonectes cancrivora* Gravenhorst, 1829 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
10. *Limnonectes doriae* (Boulenger, 1887) :
Distribution : Andaman and Nicobar.
11. *Limnonectes hascheana* (Stoliczka, 1870) :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
12. *Limnonectes limnocharis* Boie, 1835 :
Distribution : Andamans.

13. *Limnonectes macrodon* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1841) :

Distribution : Nicobars.

14. *Limnonectes tigerinus* (Dandin, 1803) :

Distribution : Andamans.

15. *Rana erythraea* (Schlegel, 1837) :

Distribution : Nicobars.

16. *Rana nicobariensis* (Stoliczka, 1870) :

Distribution : Nicobars.

RHACOPHORIDAE

17. *Polypedates leucomystax* Gravenhorst, 1829 :

Distribution : Nicobars.

CHECKLIST OF REPTILES

CROCODYLIDAE

1. *Crocodylus porosus* Schneider, 1801 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.

DERMOCHELYIDAE

2. *Dermochelys coriacea* (Vandelli, 1761) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.

CHELONIDAE

3. *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
4. *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus, 1766) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
5. *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Eschscholtz, 1829) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.

BATAGURIDAE

6. *Cuora amboinensis* (Daudin, 1801)
Distribution : Nicobars.

TRIONYCHIDAE

7. *Lissemys punctata* (Lacepede, 1788)
Lissemys punctata andersoni Webb, 1980 :
Distribution : Andamans (probably introduced).

GEKKONIDAE

8. *Cnemaspis kandianus* (Kelaart, 1852) :
Distribution : Andamans.
 9. *Gehyra mutilata* (Wiegmann, 1835) :
Distribution : Andamans.
 10. *Gekko gekko* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Gekko gekko gekko (Linnaeus, 1758) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
 11. *Gekko smithii* Gray, 1842 :
Distribution : Nicobars.
 12. *Gekko verreauxi* (Tytler, 1864) :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
 13. *Gonydactylus rubida* Blyth, 1860) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars (endemic).
 14. *Hemidactylus frenatus* Dumeril & Bibron, 1836 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
 15. *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1836) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
 16. *Phelsuma andamanense* Blyth, 1860 :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
 17. *Ptychozoon kuhli* Stejneger, 1902 :
Distribution : Nicobars.

AGAMIDAE

18. *Bronchocela cristatella* (Kuhl, 1920) :
Distribution : Nicobars.
 19. *Bronchocela danieli* Tiwari & Biswas, 1973 :

Distribution : Nicobars (endemic).

20. *Bronchocela jubata* Dumeril & Bibron, 1837 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
 21. *Calotes andamanensis* Boulenger, 1891 :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
 22. *Calotes emma* Gray, 1845
Calotes emma alticristatus (Schmidt, 1927) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
 23. *Calotes mystaceus* Dumeril & Bibron, 1837 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
 24. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin, 1802) :
Calotes versicolor versicolor (Daudin, 1802) :
Distribution : Andamans.
 25. *Coryphophylax subcristatus* (Blyth, 1860) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars (endemic).

DIBAMIDAE

26. *Dibamus leucurus* (Bleeker, 1860) :
Distribution : Nicobars.

SCINCIDAE

27. *Dasamia rugifera* (Stoliczka, 1870) :
Distribution : Nicobars.
 28. *Dasia nicobariensis* Biswas & Sanyal, 1977 :
Distribution : Nicobars (endemic).
 29. *Dasia olivacea* Gray, 1838 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
 30. *Lipinia macrotyimpanum* (Stoliczka, 1873) :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
 31. *Lipinia quadrivittatum* (Peters, 1867) :
Distribution : Nicobars.
 32. *Lygosoma bowringii* (Gunther, 1864) :
Distribution : Andamans.

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- 33. *Mabuya andamanensis* Smith, 1935 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars (endemic).
- 34. *Mabuya rudis* Boulenger, 1887 :
Distribution : Nicobars.
- 35. *Mabuya tyleri* (Theobald, 1868) :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
- 36. *Scincella macrotis* (Steindachner, 1869):
Distribution : Nicobars (endemic).
- 37. *Sphenomorphus maculata* (Blyth, 1853):
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.

VARANIDAE

- 38. *Varanus salvator* (Laurenti, 1768)
Varanus salvator andamanensis (Deraniyagala, 1944) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars (endemic).

TYPHLOPIDAE

- 39. *Ramphotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803):
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
- 40. *Typhlops andamanensis* Stoliczka, 1871 :
Distribution : Nicobars (endemic).
- 41. *Typhlops oatesi* Boulenger, 1890 :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).

XENOPELTIDAE

- 42. *Xenopeltis unicolor* Reinwardt, 1827 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.

BOIDAE

- 43. *Python reticulata* (Schneider, 1801) :
Distribution : Nicobars.

ACROCHORDIDAE

- 44. *Acrochordus granulatus* (Schneider, 1779):
Distribution : Andamans.

COLUBRIDAE

- 45. *Amphiesma nicobriensis* (Sclater, 1891) :
Distribution : Nicobars (endemic).
- 46. *Amphiesma stolatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) :
Distribution : Andamans.
- 47. *Boiga andamanensis* (Wall, 1909) :
Distribution : Andamans (endemic).
- 48. *Boiga cyaneum* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1854):
Distribution : Nicobars.
- 49. *Boiga dendrophila* (Boie, 1827)
Boiga denrophilia subspecies :
Distribution : Nicobars (endemic).
- 50. *Boiga ochraceus* (Gunther, 1868)
Boiga ochraceus ochraceus (Gunther, 1868) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
Boiga ochraceus walli Smith, 1943 :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
- 51. *Cantoria violacea* Giard, 1857 :
Distribution : Andamans.
- 52. *Cerberus rhynchops* (Schneider, 1799)
Cerbrus rhynchops rhynchops (Schneider 1799) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
- 53. *Chrysopelea paradisi* Boie, 1827 :
Distribution : Andamans.
- 54. *Coluber mucosus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Coluber mucosus mucosus (Linnaeus, 1758) :
Distribution : Andamans.
- 55. *Dendrelaphis cyanochloris* (Wall, 1921) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars.
- 56. *Dendrelaphis humayuni* Tiwari & Biswas, 1973 :
Distribution : Nicobars (endemic).
- 57. *Dendrelaphis pictus* (Gmelin, 1789)
Dendrelaphis pictus andamanensis (Smith, 1943) :
Distribution : Andamans and Nicobars (endemic).

58. *Elaphe flavolineata* (Schlegel, 1837):
Distribution: Andamans and Nicobars.
59. *Fordonia leucobalia* (Schlegel, 1837):
Distribution: Nicobars.
60. *Gonyosoma oxycephalus* (Boie, 1827):
Distribution: Andamans and Nicobars.
61. *Liopeltis nicobariensis* (Stoliczka, 1870):
Distribution: Nicobars (endemic).
62. *Oligodon woodmasoni* (Slater, 1891):
Distribution: Andamans and Nicobars (endemic).
63. *Ophites capucinus* Boie, 1827:
Distribution: Andamans and Nicobars.
64. *Ophites tiwarii* Biswas & Sanyal, 1965:
Distribution: Andamans (endemic).
65. *Sipynophis bistrigatus* (Gunther, 1868):
Distribution: Nicobars.
66. *Xenochrophis melanzostus* (Boie, 1826):
Distribution: Andamans and Nicobars (endemic).
67. *Xenochrophis trianguligerus* (Boie, 1827):
Distribution: Nicobars.

ELAPIDAE

68. *Bungarus andamanensis* Biswas & Sanyal, 1978:
Distribution: Andamans (endemic).
69. *Naja kaouthia* Lesson, 1831: *pagillepora*
Distribution: Andamans. (endemic)
70. *Ophiophagus hannah* (Cantor, 1836):
Distribution: Andamans.

HYDROPHIIDAE

71. *Laticauda laticaudatus* (Linnaeus, 1758):
Distribution: Andamans and Nicobars (marine).

72. *Laticauda colubrinus* (Schneider, 1799):
Distribution: Andamans (marine).
73. *Microcephalophis cantoris* Gunther, 1864:
Distribution: Andamans (marine).
74. *Pelamis playurus* (Linnaeus, 1766)
Distribution: Andamans (marine).

VIPERIDAE

75. *Trimeresurus cantori* (Blyth, 1846):
Distribution: Andamans and Nicobars. (endemic).
76. *Trimeresurus labialis* Fitzinger, 1861:
Distribution: Nicobars (endemic).
77. *Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus* (Gray & Hardwicke, 1830), *Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus andersoni* Theobald, 1868:
Distribution: Andamans and Nicobars. (endemic).

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