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Cover: Marine invertebrates - made with acrylic paint. © P. Kritika.



Further distribution records of *Varadia ambolensis* (Stylommatophora: Helicarionoidea) from the state of Goa

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The Western Ghats hotspot of India has 270 species of land snails of which 76% are endemic to this region (Aravind et al. 2005) and 40% are micro-gastropods (Aravind et al. 2008). *Varadia ambolensis* is a helicarionoidean species of land snail endemic to the northern and central Western Ghats. It is the only known large semi-slug species having broad densely tuberculated shell lobes and a depressed, discoid shell with a disproportionately large body whorl and colour ranging from golden-brown to reddish-yellow (Bhosale et al. 2021). We, herein, report new occurrence records for the recently describe *V. ambolensis* from the state of Goa. Identity of the individuals were confirmed based on the characters as described by Bhosale et al. (2021); the shell surface was smooth and glossy, with irregular, faint collabral striae. Surface of mantle was densely covered by small, irregular tubercles that appear lighter on top, mantle with two broad shell lobes and two dorsal lobes, living individuals were glossy grey or greyish-white with irregular dark mottling; head and tail dark grey or blackish with tentacles tending to be paler at their tips. Tail consisting of large slit-like caudal pit; caudal horn prominent when extended.

On 2 September 2021 we observed an individual of *V. ambolensis* moving on a tar road at Netravali Wildlife

Sanctuary (15.062°N & 74.240°E) during our field visit at 0042 h (Image 2). In another such instance, on 22 September 2021, during our field visit at Collem, Goa (15.333°N & 74.259°E), we found eight individuals of *V. ambolensis* on the rocks, dead wood logs and shrubs of *Strobilanthes* sp., alongside a slow flowing stream at 1900 h (Image 3). During our herpetological survey on 20 October 2021, at 2345 h in Sural Village, Goa (15.668°N & 74.173°E), we encountered 12 individuals of *V. ambolensis* on an embankment and on the forest floor during our field visit in the area (Image 4).

All of the above records were opportunistic sightings in semi evergreen patches, during our herpetological field visits, which indicates that dedicated surveys could yield more such records. Currently, this species is known from only a few localities and our sightings will add to the distribution data of this species.

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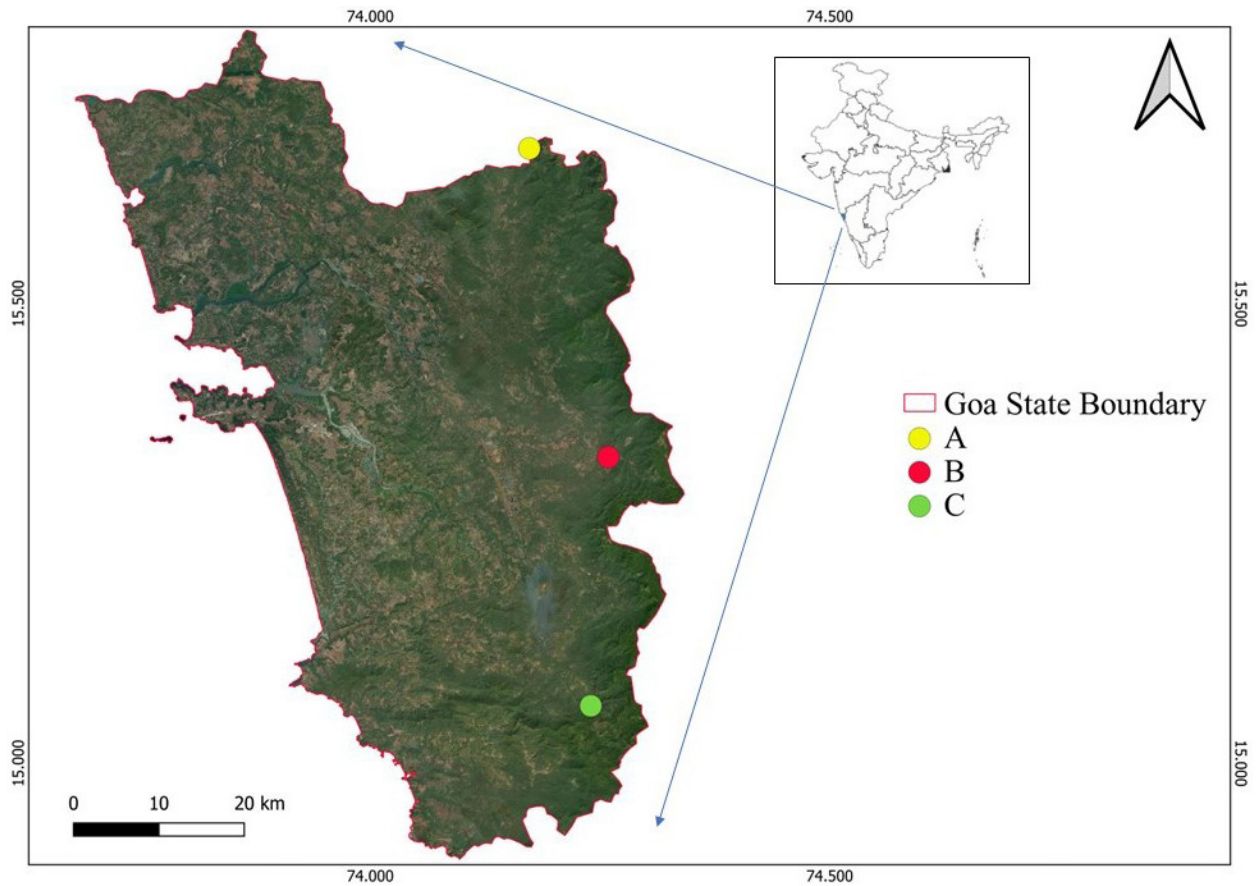


Image 1 . Distribution map showing *Varadia ambolensis* occurrences at: A—Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary | B—Collem village | C—Sural Village in the state of Goa.



Image 2. *Varadia ambolensis* photographed in Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary on 2 September 2021 at 0042 h.



Image 3. *Varadia ambolensis* photographed in Collem village, Goa on 22 September 2021 at 1900 h.



Image 4. *Varadia ambolensis* photographed in Sural village, Goa on 20 October 2021 at 2345 h.

S.K. Kadam, D.V. Muley & D.C. Raheem (2021). *Varadia*, a new helicarionoidean semi-slug genus from India's Western Ghats (Stylommatophora: Helicarionoidea). *European Journal of Taxonomy* 757(1): 50–79. <https://doi.org/10.5852/ejt.2021.757.1413>



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