BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

10TH WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY

5–9 August 2024

Compiled by

Indraneil Das

World Congress of Herpetology (WCH)

Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation
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Sarawak, Malaysia

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COMPILER'S NOTES

The 10th World Congress of Herpetology is being held at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching, in the State of Sarawak, Malaysia, 5–9 August 2024. The Congress is organised by the World Congress of Herpetology (https://www.worldcongressofherpetology.org) and the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (https://www.ibec.unimas.my), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. The event is supported by Business Events Sarawak, Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Sarawak Biodiversity Centre, AGARK DGHT, the Institute of Agriculture, University of Tennessee (UT AgResearch) and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.

A total of 1,481 abstracts of oral and poster papers were received at the website of the Congress (https://2024wch10.com), through an online conference management system (KonferenceX Content Management System), or came in via email. Only those submitted by registered delegates were included in this book of abstracts. Poster presentations include the full spectrum of herpetological topics, including subject material corresponding to Symposia. Also included are abstracts of Plenary Lectures, Special Presentations and Official Side Events.

Abstracts were formatted and lightly edited for content and style but did not undergo a full peer review. Any new taxon descriptions or other nomenclatural acts contained in this book of abstracts and programme should not be considered published in the sense of Article 8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999).

We welcome all delegates to the beautiful city of Kuching, Sarawak and to the 10th World Congress of Herpetology.

Prof. Indraneil Das, D.Phil. (Oxon)
Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia
e-mail: idas@unimas.my
Director, 10th World Congress of Herpetology: https://2024wch10.com

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urban Charotar villages, where people engage regularly with crocodiles, we find cultural ecosystem services being derived from these interactions. The community's awareness of crocodile ecology and keen observational skills highlight the role of wildlife knowledge in shaping attitudes and perceptions. The differences in traditional knowledge about crocodiles and their behaviour in Vadodara and Charotar, suggests that learning is not only structured by cultural or religious influences, but the transmission of traditional knowledge is more important at the community level. Human attitudes, informed by perceptions, play a crucial role in managing everyday interactions with crocodiles. Our study finds that these attitudes, shaped by traditional ecological knowledge, vernacular ethological accounts, and past experiences, contribute to the construction of local cultures that integrate the historical presence of crocodiles alongside humans. Such strong human beliefs in coexistence with crocodiles hold important lessons for the conservation of human–nonhuman lifeworlds in the evolving Anthropocene of the tropics, where we question how to survive with what is left.

A-0655 (Oral)

Evolution of the Kukri Snake Genus *Oligodon* Fitzinger, 1826: Sharpening the Blade of the Second Largest Serpent Radiation (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae)

Justin Lee[1], Platon Yushchenko[2,3], Chatmongkon Suwannapoom[5], Parinya Pawangkhanant[5,6], Lee Grismer[7,8,9], Tan Van Nguyen[10,11], V. Deepak[12,13], Surya Narayanan[14], Sandeep Das[15], Thy Neang[16], H. T. Lalremsanga[17], Jian-Huan Yang[18], Daniel Jablonski[19], Mustafa Erkaya[20], Gernot Vogel2[1], Aaron Bauer[20] and Nikolay Poyarkov[2,3]

[1]Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA

[2]Department of Vertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 20013, USA

[3]Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Biological Faculty, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, 119234, Russia

[4]Joint Russian-Vietnamese Tropical Research and Technological Center, Nghia Do, Cau Giay, Hanoi, 122000, Vietnam

[5]Division of Fishery, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Phayao, Phayao, 56000, Thailand

[6]Rabbit in the Moon Foundation, Suanphueng, Ratchaburi 70180, Thailand

[7]Herpetology Laboratory, Department of Biology, La Sierra University, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, California 92505, USA

[8]Department of Herpetology, San Diego Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 121390, San Diego, California, 92112, USA

[9]Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

[10]Institute for Research and Training in Medicine, Biology and Pharmacy, Duy Tan University, Da Nang, 550000, Vietnam

[11]College of Medicine and Pharmacy, Duy Tan University, 120 Hoang Minh Thao, Lien Chieu, Da Nang, 550000, Vietnam

[12]Senckenberg Dresden, Königsbrücker Landstraße 159, 01109 Dresden, Germany

[13]Science Group, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK

[14]Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Royal Enclave, Srirampura, India

[15]Department of Zoology, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Kerala, 680 121, India

[16]Wild Earth Allies, 77a, Street Beton, Bayap Village, Sangkat Phnom Penh Thmei, Khan Sen Sok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
[17]Developmental Biology and Herpetology Laboratory, Department of Zoology, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram, 796 004, India
[18]Kadoorie Conservation China, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Lam Kam Road, Tai Po, Hong Kong, China
[19]Department of Zoology, Comenius University in Bratislava, Bratislava 84215, Slovak Republic
[20]Department of Biology and Center for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Stewardship, Villanova University, Villanova, PA, 19087, USA
[21]Society for South East Asian Herpetology, Im Sand-3, D-69115 Heidelberg, Germany

With over 90 recognized species, Kukri snakes of the genus *Oligodon* Fitzinger, 1826 represent the second largest snake genus in the world and the most speciose snake genus on the Asian continent. While *Oligodon* contains a high level of species richness and a number of unique ecological attributes, the biology and evolutionary history of the genus poorly understood due to a limited number of samples available in earlier studies. In this presentation, we present the largest molecular dataset of *Oligodon* to date, which we use to assess phylogenetic relationships, systematics, and biogeographic patterns. In addition, we use an expanded dataset of over 35 high-resolution computed tomography (CT) scans to explore variation in skull morphology and dentition. Based on a combination of phylogenetic analyses, we recover eight major clades within *Oligodon*, of which only two correspond with species groupings recognized by earlier morphological classifications. We recover dual cases where taxonomic diversity is underestimated and overestimated and identify several species complexes that likely require integrative revisions in the future. Our examination of CT-scans reveal that enlarged 'blade-like' maxillary teeth are found across most *Oligodon*, though considerable variation in other dental and cranial features were noted. Taken together, we provide insights on how osteological features found in *Oligodon* correlate with aspects of feeding and habitat ecology, and discuss the utility of skull morphology in kukri snake systematics. Finally, we discuss the biogeographic history of *Oligodon* and identify future directions that require further investigation once new data becomes available.

A-0656 (Oral)
Lotic Specialization in Modern Asian Newts (Caudata: Salamandridae), Phylogeny, Historical Biogeography and Ancestral Traits based on Combined DNA Data

Yanpeng Shen[1], Kanto Nishikawa[1,2], Jianping Jiang[3], Masafumi Matsui[1], Dingqi Rao[4], Natsuhiko Yoshikawa[5], Atsushi Tominaga[6] and Daosavanh Sanamxay[7]
[1]Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, Japan
[2]Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, Japan
[3]Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
[4]Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
[5]Department of Zoology, National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan
[6]Faculty of Education, University of the Ryukyus, Japan
[7]Faculty of Environmental Science, National University of Laos, Lao PDR

Modern Asian Newts, including *Cynops, Laotriton, Pachytriton*, and *Paramesotriton*, are distributed in East Asia and have adapted to various environments, including generalists inhabiting both lotic and lentic habitats, and lotic specializations. Despite recent efforts on biogeographic history, these studies could not explain the causes of emergence of lotic