



## A new species of *Gegeneophis* Peters (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) from Goa, India

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### Abstract

A new species of Indian caecilian, *Gegeneophis goensis* (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) is described from three specimens collected from the Western Ghats region of Goa. This species is distinguished from all other members of the genus in having more than 120 primary annuli with more than 75 of these having secondary annular grooves.

**Key words:** caecilians, *Gegeneophis*, Western Ghats, South Asia, systematics

### Introduction

The endemic Indian caecilian genus *Gegeneophis* Peters of the family Caeciliidae was represented by only four species until the end of the last millennium (Pillai & Ravichandran 1999): *G. carnosus* (Beddome), *G. fulleri* (Alcock), *G. krishni* Pillai & Ravichandran, and *G. ramaswamii* Taylor. Since the beginning of the present millennium four new species from the Western Ghats, India have been added to the genus. Ravichandran *et al.* (2003) described *G. seshachari* from central western Maharashtra, Giri *et al.* (2003) described *G. danieli* from southern Maharashtra, Bhatta and Prashanth (2004) described *G. nadkarnii* from Goa, and Bhatta and Srinivasa (2004) described *G. madhavaorum* (see Das 2006 for correction of name from *G. madhavaei*) from western Karnataka. From the Western Ghats region of Goa, India, we have collected three caecilian specimens that fit the generic diagnosis of *Gegeneophis* given by Ravichandran *et al.* (2003), but differ from all known species of the genus in having a combination of visible eyes in life, more than 120 primary annuli, more than 75 of which have secondary annular grooves.

### *Gegeneophis goensis* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 2, Table 1)

**Holotype:** Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, India (BNHS) 4594. A mature female, collected at Ganv Kond locality - 15° 36.80' N latitude 74° 04.46' E longitude (Keri Village, Sattari Taluk, North Goa district, Goa), September 2004.

**Paratypes:** BNHS 4595. A juvenile, same collection data as for the holotype. Zoological Survey of India, Calicut (ZSI/WGFRS/V/A/608), mature male, collected at Ghoteli locality - 15° 36.44' N latitude and 74° 03.82' E longitude (Keri Village, Sattari Taluk, North Goa district, Goa), July 2006.