

A new species of *Gegeneophis* Peters (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) from southern Maharashtra, India, with a key to the species of the genus

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Abstract

A new species of Indian caeciliid caecilian, *Gegeneophis danieli* (Amphibia: Gymnophiona), is described from a single specimen from the Western Ghats of southern Maharashtra. This distinctive species differs from all other Indian caeciliids in having more numerous secondary annuli that are not restricted to the posterior half of the body. A new key to the species of *Gegeneophis* is presented, and the diversity of the genus is briefly discussed.

Key words: caecilians, eyes, herpetology, *Indotyphlus*, South Asia, systematics

Introduction

In their recent monograph on the caecilians of India, Pillai & Ravichandran (1999) recognised four species in the endemic Indian caeciliid genus *Gegeneophis* Peters, including one (*G. krishni*) that they described as new. A further new species of *Gegeneophis* (*G. seshachari*) from Ratnagiri District in central western Maharashtra was recently described by Ravichandran et al. (2003), who also provided a revised diagnosis of the genus. A caecilian collected in 2002 from southern Maharashtra fits the generic diagnosis provided by Ravichandran et al. but differs significantly from all previously described species of *Gegeneophis*. Here we describe this new form, provide a key to the known species of *Gegeneophis*, and briefly discuss aspects of the diversity of the genus.