

## Need for Conservation of Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*) (Linnaeus 1758)

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### INTRODUCTION

The Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*) was found during an inventory studies on biodiversity of Seshachalam hills. The hills are one of the eighteen biosphere reserves in India which covers an area of 4756 km<sup>2</sup>. Vegetation within the reserve consists mostly of tropical southern dry mixed deciduous forest, while elevations range from 150 m to 1130 m [1]. The Rock Python randomly distributed in all localities of the study area. From the month of September and October mostly sighted. The Indian Rock Python is thick-bodied and smooth scaled, head broader than neck, eye has vertical pupil and upper surface of head has large scales of different shapes and average length of 18ft. The overall colour of the rock Python varies from body full of irregular shaped patches with black border; main dorsal color white mixed with yellow, gray or brown; color of patch mostly dark brown or blackish, between these patches yellowish-brown color exist (Fig 1).

This species is listed under the Lower Risk-Near Threatened IUCN red list category [2]. Since the forests are well protected and there is no illegal activity specially smuggling and poaching for wild animals in this forest, but conservation point of that, within one week i.e. the month of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2012 three adult rock python and more number of non-poisonous snakes also unknowingly were killed by villagers especially (Tirupati, Mamandur and Karivettinagaram of Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, India) and

one Rock Python are road kill. The Rock Python have been categorized under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and also listed under CITES, subsequent to severe habitat loss and poaching for the skin, meat and pet trade of these reptiles is punishable under this Act (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>. Downloaded on 21 August 2009) [3].

This report give emphasis to that there is an urgent need to look after and conserve as well as create awareness among local people about Indian Rock Python and other wildlife in and around Seshachalam forest.

### REFERENCES

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Fig 1: Dead Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*)