

**REDESCRIPTION OF *GONGYLOPHIS CONICUS* (SCHNEIDER, 1801) WITH
COMPARATIVE NOTES ON *ERYX JOHNI* RUSSELL, 1801 AND *ERYX CONICUS*
(BOULENGER, 1893) (SERPENTES, BOIDAE)**

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ABSTRACT

The taxonomic revision of *Gongylophis conicus* (Schneider, 1801) which is currently considered to be a synonym of *Eryx conicus* (Boulenger, 1893) is presented here. Distinguishing characters of male and female of the species indicate that females are superior to males in respect to different characters like length and pholidosis.

The paper has a key and a brief redescription of *Eryx johnii* Russell, 1801. Comparison between two species of *Eryx* (*johnii* and *conicus*) is also mentioned here.

Gongylophis conicus is currently considered to be a synonym of *Eryx conicus*, but four distinguishing morphological characters (body colour, rostral shield, mental groove, and tail tip) of *Eryx conicus* and *Gongylophis conicus* reported here indicate that they are two separate genus, not synonymous to each other.

KEYWORDS: Reptilia, Serpentes, *Gongylophis*, *Eryx*, Systematics, West Bengal