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## Curriculum Vitae

### Varad B. Giri, Ph.D.

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#### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

After 17 years of studying amphibians and reptiles in India, my passion for herpetology coupled with my prime interest in sharing my knowledge, compel me to apply for the position at your esteemed institute. My intention is to impart the knowledge about biodiversity in general and amphibians and reptiles in particular to the students and create experts of international repute in this subject. I also wish to develop centre of excellence in herpetological taxonomy and it can be achieved with the institutes which has a strong background of research and science.

Herpetological taxonomy has been the soul of my professional existence. My integrative approach to taxonomy and systematics has always been collaborative and inclusive. This has resulted in more than 50 major publications in journals of repute, 35 of which were descriptions of species new to science. I intend to further my collaboration with scientists from India and abroad to bring in a deeper understanding of Indian biodiversity, which I also meticulously intend to preserve and spread awareness about, in my role as staff of your esteemed institute.

#### EDUCATION:

Ph. D. (Zoology)	April, 2013, North Orissa University, Baripada, Orissa, India.
M. Sc. (Entomology)	1995, Department of Zoology, Shivaji Univeristy, Kolhapur, India
B. Sc. (Zoology)	1993, Zoology, Rajaram College, Kolhapur, India

#### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

July 2017 onwards	Facility In-charge, Museum and Field Stations Facility, National Centre for Biological Sciences, TIFR, Bangalore.
February 15 – July 17	Post Doctoral Fellow, National Centre for Biological Sciences, TIFR, Bangalore.
April 13 - December 14	Senior Scientist, Western Ghats Regional Station, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai.
April 08 - June 12	Curator, Collections Department, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, India. Proper maintenance, propagation and research on the natural history collection comprising 2.10 lakh specimens of insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.
April 07 - April 08	Scientist 'B' in the Herpetology Section, Collections Department,

- Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai, India. Proper maintenance, propagation and research on the natural history collection comprising 15 thousand specimens of amphibians and reptiles.
- Dec. 05 - April 07 Scientist 'A' in the Herpetology Section, Collections Department, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai, India. Proper maintenance, propagation and research on the natural history collection comprising 15 thousand specimens of amphibians and reptiles.
- April 99 - Dec. 05 Research Assistant in the Herpetology Section, Collections Department, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai, India. Proper maintenance, propagation and research on the natural history collection comprising 15 thousand specimens of amphibians and reptiles.

**MAJOR PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN:**

1. Caecilians of the northern Western Ghats, India: An assessment of the species and their conservation status. Funded by Rufford Small Grants, UK (2008-2012) (\$ 5000).
2. Towards the conservation of caecilian amphibians of the northern Western Ghats – establishing the systematic foundation. Funded by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India (2008-2011). (Rs. 8,65,000)
3. Survey of marine turtles along the coast of Maharashtra and Goa. Funded by GOI – UNDP (2000-2001). (Rs. 5,00,000)
4. Tracing the migrations of Indian marine turtles: towards an integrated and collaborative conservation program. Funded by CMS (2004-2005). (Rs. 4,00,000)

**AFFILIATIONS:**

1. Scientific Associate – Natural History Museum, London (2009 onwards)
2. Associate Scientist – Global Wildlife Conservation (2012 onwards)
3. Senior Scientist – Indian Herpetological Society, Pune.

**PUBLICATIONS** (Total 52 major publications, representative publications listed below):

1. **GIRI, VARAD B.**, AARON M. BAUER, P. MOHAPATRA, C. SRINIVASULU AND I. AGARWAL (2017): A new species of large-bodied, tuberculate *Hemidactylus* Oken (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from the Eastern Ghats, India. *Zootaxa* 4347 (2): 331–345.
2. **GIRI, VARAD B.**, V. DEEPAK, ASHOK CAPTAIN, ABHIJIT DAS, SANDEEP DAS, K.P. RAJKUMAR, R.L. RATHISH AND DAVID GOWER (2017): A new species of *Rhabdops* Boulenger, 1893 (Serpentes: Natricinae) from the northern Western Ghats region of India. *Zootaxa* 4539 (1).
3. DATTA-ROY ANIRUDDHA, V. DEEPAK, R. CHAITANYA, C. MURTHY, HARSHAL BHOSALE, APARNA LAJMI, PRAVEEN KARANTH, KRUSHNAMEGH KUNTE AND **VARAD B. GIRI** (2017): On the taxonomic status of *Eurylepis poonaensis* (Squamata: Scincidae): resolving a long-standing conundrum. *Salamandra* 53(3): 389-397.
4. GIRI, VARAD B., V. DEEPAK, ASHOK CAPTAIN, ABHIJIT DAS, SANDEEP DAS, K.P. RAJKUMAR, R.L. RATHISH AND DAVID GOWER (2017): A new species of *Rhabdops* Boulenger, 1893 (Serpentes: Natricinae) from the northern Western Ghats region of India. *Zootaxa* 4539 (1).

5. GAITONDE NIKHIL, **VARAD GIRI**, KRUSHNAMEGH KUNTE (2016): ‘On the rocks’: reproductive biology of the endemic toad *Xanthophryne* (Anura: Bufonidae) from the Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Natural History*, DOI: 10.1080/00222933.2016.1200686.
6. WILLAERT BERT, ROBIN SUYESH, SONALI GARG, **VARAD B. GIRI**, MARK A. BEE AND S.D. BIJU (2016): A unique and complex mating strategy without physical contact during fertilization in *Nyctibatrachus humayuni* (Anura: Nyctibatrachidae), with the description of a new form of amplexus and female advertisement call. *PeerJ* 4:e2117; DOI 10.7717/peerj.2117.
7. DEEPAK, V., **V.B. GIRI**, M. ASIF, S.K. DUTTA, R. VYAS, A.M. ZABBRE, H. BHOSALE & K.P. KARANTH (2016): Systematics and phylogeny of *Sitana* (Reptilia: Agamidae) of Peninsular India, with description of a new genus and five new species. *Contributions to Zoology* 85(1): 67-111.
8. GOWER, D.J., **V. GIRI**, A. CAPTAIN & M. WILKINSON (2016): A reassessment of *Melanophidium* Günther, 1864 (Squamata: Serpentes: Uropeltidae) from the Western Ghats of peninsular India, with the description of a new species. *Zootaxa* 4085 (4): 481-503.
9. LAJMI, A., V.B. GIRI & K.P. KARANTH (2016): Molecular data in conjunction with morphology help resolve the *Hemidactylus brookii* complex (Squamata: Gekkonidae). *Org. Divers. Evol.* DOI: 10.1007/s13127-016-0271-9
10. GOWER, D.J., I. AGARWAL, K.P. KARANTH, A. DATTA-ROY, **V.B. GIRI**, M. WILKINSON & D. SAN MAURO (2016): The role of wet-zone fragmentation in shaping biodiversity patterns in peninsular India: insights from the caecilian amphibian *Gegeneophis*. *Journal of Biogeography* doi:10.1111/jbi.12710.
11. DEEPAK, V., R. VYAS, V.B. GIRI, K.P. KARANTH (2015): A taxonomic mystery for more than 180 years: the identity and systematic position of *Brachysaura minor* (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827). *Vertebrate Zoology* 65 (3): 371 – 381.
12. MURTHY, B.H.C.K., BAUER, A., LAJMI, A., AGARWAL, I & **V.B. GIRI** (2015): A new rock dwelling *Hemidactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Chhattisgarh, India. *Zootaxa* 4021 (2): 334–350.
13. GAITONDE, N AND **V. GIRI** (2014): Primitive breeding in and ancient Indian frog genus *Indirana*. *Current Science* 107 (1): 109-112.
14. AGARWAL, I., M. WILKINSON, P.P. MOHAPATRA, S.K. DUTTA, **V.B. GIRI** & D.J. GOWER (2013): The first teresomatan caecilian (Amphibia: Gymnophiona) from the Eastern Ghats of India—a new species of *Gegeneophis* Peters, 1880. *Zootaxa* 3696 (4): 534–546.
15. SMITH, E.N., H. OGALE, V. DEEPAK & **V.B. GIRI** (2012): A new species of coralsnake of the genus *Calliophis* (Squamata: Elapidae) from the West Coast of Peninsular India. *Zootaxa* 3437: 51-68.
16. BIJU, S.D., I. BOCXLAER, S. MAHONY, K.P. DINESH, C. RADHAKRISHNAN, A. ZACHARIAH, **V. GIRI** & F. BOSSUYT (2011): A taxonomic review of the Night Frog genus *Nyctibatrachus* Boulenger, 1882 in the Western Ghats, India (Anura: Nyctibatrachidae) with description of twelve new species. *Zootaxa* 3029: 1–96.
17. GOWER, D.J., D. SAN MAURO, **V. GIRI**, G. BHATT, V. GOVINDAPPA, R. KOTHARAMBATH, O.V. OOMMEN, F.A. FATIH, J.A. MACKENZIE-DODDS, R.A. NUSSBAUM, S.D. BIJU, Y.S. SHOUCHE, M. WILKINSON (2011): Molecular systematics of caeciliid caecilians (Amphibia: Gymnophiona) of the Western Ghats, India.

- Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 59: 698–707.
18. **GIRI, V.**, D.J. GOWER, K. GAIKWAD & M. WILKINSON (2011): A second species of *Gegeneophis* Peters (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) lacking secondary annular grooves. *Zootaxa* 2815: 49–58.
  19. AGARWAL, I, **V.B. GIRI** & A.M. BAUER (2011): A new cryptic rock-dwelling *Hemidactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from south India. *Zootaxa* 2765: 21-37.
  20. BAUER, A. M., T. R. JACKMAN, E. GREENBAUM, **V. B. GIRI** & A. DE SILVA (2010): South Asia supports a major endemic radiation of *Hemidactylus* geckos. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 57: 343-352.
  21. **GIRI, V.B.**, A. M. BAUER, R. VYAS & S. PATIL (2009): A new species of rock dwelling gecko, *Hemidactylus gujaratensis* sp. nov. (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Gujarat, India. *Journal of Herpetology* 43 (3): 385–393.
  22. **GIRI, V.B.**, K.S. GAIKWAD & A.M. BAUER (2009): A new ground dwelling species of *Cnemaspis* Strauch (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from the northern Western Ghats, Maharashtra, India. *Zootaxa* 2164: 49-60.
  23. S.D. BIJU, I. BOCXLAER, **V.B. GIRI**, S.P. LOADER & F. BOSSUYT (2009): Two new endemic genera and a new species of toad (Anura: Bufonidae) from the Western Ghats of India. *BMC Research Notes* 2: 241.
  24. GOWER, D.J., **V.B. GIRI**, M.S. DHARANE & Y.S. SHOUCHE (2008): Frequency of independent origins of viviparity among caecilians (Gymnophiona): evidence from the first ‘live-bearing’ Asian amphibian. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 21: 122-1226.
  25. **GIRI V.B.** & A.M. BAUER (2008): A new ground-dwelling *Hemidactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Maharashtra, with a key to the *Hemidactylus* of India. *Zootaxa* 1700: 21–34.
  26. GOWER, D.J., M. DHARNE, G. BHATTA, **V.B. GIRI**, R. VYAS, V. GOVINDAPPA, O.V. OOMMEN, J. GEORGE, Y. SHOUCHE & M. WILKINSON (2007): Remarkable genetic homogeneity in unstriped, long-tailed *Ichthyophis* along 1500km of the Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Zoology* 272: 266–275.
  27. **GIRI, V.B.**, GOWER, D.J. & WILKINSON, M. (2004) A new species of *Indotyphlus* Taylor (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) from the Western Ghats of India. *Zootaxa* 739: 1-19.
  28. **GIRI, V.B.**, WILKINSON, M. & GOWER, D. J. (2003) A new species of *Gegeneophis* Peters (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) from the Western Ghats of southern Maharashtra, India, with a key to the species of the genus. *Zootaxa* 351: 1-10.
  29. **GIRI, V.B.** (2008): A new rock-dwelling *Hemidactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Maharashtra, India. *Hamadryad* 32 (1): 25-33.

**BOOKS:**

1. Paresh Porob, Raman Kulkarni & **Varad B. Giri**: *Biodiversity of Goa – A concise field guide*. Pugmark Art Gallery and Forest Department, Goa.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

**Manuscripts reviewed** for Hamadryad, Journal of Bombay Natural History Society, Journal of Threatened Taxa, Taprobanica, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Current Science, Zootaxa, Phyllomedusa.

**HONORS AND AWARDS:**

1. RBS – Earth Heroes Award, 2016.

2. Sanctuary Asia Wildlife Service Award, 2015.
3. My interview is published in the book “Life for Reptiles and Amphibians”. This book is a compilation of interviews of 55 herpetologists in the world and I am the only Indian included in this book.
4. SSB International Award (Scholarship and travel) from Society of Systematic Biologists in 2008.
5. Was invited by Natural History Museum (NHM), London and worked for 40 days studying the type specimens of Indian amphibians and reptiles.
6. ‘Sarp Mitra’ 2009 by Indian Herpetological Society, Pune.
7. ‘Nisarga Mitra’ 2010 by Vasundhara Environment Conservation and Research Organisation, Warananagar, Kolhapur.
8. One species of snake *Dendrelaphis girii*, and two species of lizards *Cnemaspis girii* and *Cyrtodactylus varadgirii* are described as recognition of my work.

#### **CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS CONDUCTED / ATTENDED:**

1. Conducted one-day workshop, ‘Role of youth and students in biodiversity conservation’ with the NCBS and Forest Department Karnataka.
2. As a faculty attended School in Herpetology for consecutive five years (2010 to 2013) – a program sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
3. Attended Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshops for amphibians and reptiles jointly organised by IUCN and Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore (28 February to 4 March 2011).
4. Attended a workshop, Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation organised by Durrell Wildlife Trust (UK) and Zoo-outreach Organisation, Coimbatore in Periyar Tiger Reserve, India (2008).
5. In collaboration with Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra (a local NGO) conducted state level workshop on Conservation of Sea Turtles in Maharashtra (27 February, 2005).
6. In collaboration with Satpura Foundation, Amaravati and Department of Zoology, Amaravati University, Amaravati, Maharashtra conducted a Reptile Training Workshop in Melghat Tiger Reserve for the forest department personnel, students from Amaravati University and few NGO’s in that area. (6-8 February, 2004).
7. National Workshop on Information Technology in Biological Collections. Organised by National Chemical Laboratory, Pune (January 10-11, 2002).
8. Invited talk to the participants of Refresher Course at Department of Environmental Science, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad (March, 2009 to March 2016).

#### **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:**

Conducted one-year online course in Herpetology at the BNHS for three years. Written about 50 popular articles in various natural history magazines and newspapers. Conducted various training programs (in field and museum visits) targeting amphibians and reptiles to general public and staff of the forest department. Delivered popular talks in various schools and colleges. Provided formal training in taxonomy of lizards and caecilians to various researchers and nature enthusiasts.