

**Supplementary Table 1.** Morphological data of *Bungarus niger* (species I) from Mizoram State and *Bungarus lividus* (species II) from Meghalaya State, NE India. \* = damaged tail tip.

Museum nos.	MZMU 1324	MZMU 978	MZMU 975	MZMU 1315	MZMU 993	MZMU 1337	MZMU 1338	MZMU 1339	MZMU 1341	MZMU 1343	MZMU 1388	MZMU 1416	MZMU 1527	MZMU 1482	MZMU 1483
Species	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Sex	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
HL	21.80	24.22	18.00	16.54	15.10	22.86	22.02	19.48	16.52	21.81	20.66	26.44	21.46	20.40	23.80
HW	19.56	20.26	12.94	13.28	12.50	19.82	19.78	15.60	11.92	17.58	15.52	22.46	17.28	15.38	16.90
HW/HL	0.90	0.84	0.72	0.80	0.83	0.87	0.90	0.80	0.72	0.81	0.75	0.85	0.81	0.75	0.71
ED	3.04	3.84	2.48	2.37	2.42	3.12	3.00	2.23	2.28	2.87	2.48	2.95	2.95	2.72	2.82
ED/HL	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.14	0.13	0.12
E–SN	6.32	8.78	4.56	4.62	5.01	6.30	6.48	4.48	4.74	6.41	5.91	5.76	5.91	5.60	6.94
E–N	3.50	5.96	3.10	3.22	3.33	4.96	5.08	3.38	3.54	4.50	4.41	4.44	4.61	3.98	5.04
SVL	1030	1050	779	684	695	1015	887	787	742	895	1170	934	1025	880	1060
TaL	151	171	132	122	123	175	146	129	105	143	142	143	159	140	152
Tl	1181	1221	911	806	818	1190	1033	916	847	1038	1312	1077	1184	1020	1212
Tal/Tl	0.13	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.11	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.13
Ve	222	219	220	222	223	219	226	223	222	214	216	221	219	219	222
Sc	50	53	51	54	55	53	54	51	49	48	52	52	51	52	51
SL	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7
SLE	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4
IF	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7
PrO	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PoO	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tem	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2

  

Museum nos.	MZMU 1525	MZMU 1526	MZMU 1528	MZMU 1549	MZMU 1570	MZMU 1571	MZMU 1595	MZMU 1809	MZMU 1085	MZMU 1086	MZMU 1418	MZMU 1584	YSR 185	YSR 186	YSR 187
Species	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	II	II
Sex	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	F	F	F	F	M	M	M
HL	21.96	20.18	19.96	24.87	15.93	17.02	17.87	9.07	15.50	14.38	17.72	17.70	15.10	19.00	17.00
HW	15.85	13.73	14.57	19.68	13.36	13.82	14.46	6.91	11.20	11.85	15.09	11.80	10.80	14.50	11.60
HW/HL	0.72	0.68	0.73	0.79	0.84	0.81	0.81	0.76	0.72	0.82	0.85	0.67	0.72	0.76	0.68
ED	2.61	2.28	2.78	3.48	2.89	2.26	2.54	1.40	2.46	2.36	2.46	2.68	2.50	3.00	2.60
ED/HL	0.12	0.11	0.14	0.14	0.18	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.15	0.17	0.16	0.15
E–SN	6.47	5.57	5.32	7.19	6.08	4.64	5.40	3.20	4.68	4.13	4.85	5.48	5.90	7.80	6.90
E–N	4.72	3.65	3.89	5.20	4.12	3.25	4.09	1.58	3.44	2.81	3.73	4.05	3.00	3.80	4.80
SVL	950	935	925	1155	775	720	825	277	695	690	722	790	220	300	335
TaL	140	142	152	170	140	122	126	47	120	110	128	130	73	87	98
Tl	1090	1077	1077	1325	915	842	951	304	815	800	850	920	293	387	433
Tal/Tl	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.13	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.16	0.15	0.25	0.23	0.23
Ve	228	228	223	221	216	217	219	217	221	225	220	221	214	228	213
Sc	50	52	55	49	56	51	46*	53	52	53	48	54	33	35	36
SL	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7	7	7
SLE	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4	3–4
IF	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7/7	7	7	7
PrO	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PoO	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tem	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2	1+2

**Supplementary Table 2.** Detailed collection data of *Bungarus niger* (species I) and *Bungarus lividus* (species II) from the present study in NE India.

Species	Place	Altitude (m a.s.l.)	Latitude	Longitude
I	Umroi Military Station, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya State	957	25.675833°N	91.925000°E
I	Bethlehem, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	966	23.727222°N	92.723056°E
I	Durtlang Gosen, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,107	23.795278°N	92.733611°E
I	Durtlang ICFAI, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,273	23.798889°N	92.728056°E
I	Durtlang Mualveng, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,211	23.783333°N	92.725556°E
I	Falkawn, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	763	23.626389°N	92.724444°E
I	Hunthar, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	833	23.744444°N	92.713889°E
I	Melriat, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	858	23.647778°N	92.725833°E
I	Mission Veng, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,066	23.713611°N	92.710833°E
I	Mission Vengthlang, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	984	23.711667°N	92.706944°E
I	Model Veng, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	957	23.712778°N	92.713611°E
I	Mizoram University campus, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	836	23.736111°N	92.665278°E
I	Phunchawng, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	561	23.761111°N	92.682222°E
I	Suangpuilawn, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,043	23.958889°N	93.040833°E
I	Thingsulthliah, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	892	23.693333°N	92.860556°E
I	Tlangnuam, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,008	23.699722°N	92.716389°E
I	Tlungvel, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,110	23.607500°N	92.851667°E
I	Tuivamit, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	861	23.749167°N	92.677500°E
I	Paikhai road, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	806	23.560556°N	92.832222°E
I	World Bank road, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	752	23.730556°N	92.732778°E
I	Zohnuai, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	949	23.744722°N	92.696111°E
I	Lungleng, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,009	23.662222°N	92.664722°E
I	Selesih, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,134	23.805278°N	92.733333°E
I	Durtlang M Suaka Veng, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,123	23.781944°N	92.724167°E
I	Luangmual, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	943	23.738889°N	92.700556°E
I	Kepran, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,272	23.943056°N	92.932500°E
I	Darlawn, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,050	24.016111°N	92.927778°E
I	Samtlang, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	867	23.658889°N	92.706667°E
I	Lamchhip, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	1,320	23.436389°N	92.779722°E
I	Lungsai, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	868	23.501389°N	92.700556°E
I	NE Bualpui, Aizawl District, Mizoram State	916	24.094167°N	92.683333°E
I	Saihapui K, Kolasib District, Mizoram State	50	24.279722°N	92.641389°E
I	Phainuam, Kolasib District, Mizoram State	64	24.468056°N	92.781944°E
I	Thingdawl, Kolasib District, Mizoram State	652	24.160556°N	92.693056°E
I	Bilkhawthlir, Kolasib District, Mizoram State	360	24.340556°N	92.718333°E
I	Vairengte, Kolasib District, Mizoram State	236	24.493889°N	92.759167°E
I	Kawnpui Hmarveng, Kolasib District, Mizoram State	854	24.048889°N	92.673056°E
I	Khawzawl, Khawzawl District, Mizoram State	1,137	23.527500°N	93.187500°E
I	New Chalrang, Khawzawl District, Mizoram State	1,276	23.380000°N	93.133333°E
I	Tlabung, Lawngtlai District, Mizoram State	183	22.915000°N	92.475278°E
I	Tlabung Chawnpui, Lawngtlai District, Mizoram State	236	22.903611°N	92.485278°E
I	Chawngte, Lawngtlai District, Mizoram State	76	22.626111°N	92.642500°E
I	Mamit, Mamit District, Mizoram State	722	23.933333°N	92.493333°E
I	Reiek, Mamit District, Mizoram State	1,220	23.693611°N	92.606389°E
I	Vaipuanpho, Mamit District, Mizoram State	451	92.606389°N	92.642500°E
I	Rawpuichhip, Mamit District, Mizoram State	804	23.784167°N	92.558611°E
I	Lengte road, Mamit District, Mizoram State	480	23.816944°N	92.603889°E
I	Lungphun, Mamit District, Mizoram State	1,000	23.590278°N	92.604167°E

Species	Place	Altitude (m a.s.l.)	Latitude	Longitude
I	Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mamit District, Mizoram State	260	23.701944°N	92.446111°E
I	N. Vanlaiphai, Serchhip District, Mizoram State	1,351	23.123889°N	93.060278°E
I	Rullam, Serchhip District, Mizoram State	1,433	23.444444°N	92.999722°E
I	Thenzawl Vengthlang, Serchhip District, Mizoram State	757	23.283056°N	92.774444°E
I	Chhiahtlang, Serchhip District, Mizoram State	971	23.379722°N	92.846111°E
I	Tawipui South, Lunglei District, Mizoram State	975	22.673889°N	92.845833°E
I	Serkawn, Lunglei District, Mizoram State	1,142	22.908889°N	92.761111°E
I	Darzo, Hnahthial District, Mizoram State	1,366	22.832778°N	92.957222°E
II	Azara, Kamrup District, Assam State	51	26.123611°N	91.617222°E
II	Baridua, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya State	175	26.105833°N	91.845833°E

**Supplementary Table 3.** Uncorrected p-distances in *Bungarus* species using partial sequence of mitochondrial cytochrome *b* (*cytb*).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1 MW596472 <i>Bungarus lividus</i>																
2 AJ749304 <i>Bungarus niger</i>	0.151															
3 MW596473 <i>Bungarus niger</i>	0.154	0.010														
4 MW596474 <i>Bungarus niger</i>	0.154	0.010	0.000													
5 MW596475 <i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	0.168	0.137	0.138	0.138												
6 AJ749347 <i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	0.171	0.137	0.138	0.138	0.034											
7 AJ749350 <i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	0.174	0.147	0.148	0.148	0.034	0.044										
8 AJ749305 <i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	0.117	0.137	0.143	0.143	0.155	0.163	0.160									
9 KC347457 <i>Bungarus ceylonicus</i>	0.120	0.160	0.163	0.163	0.184	0.185	0.191	0.104								
10 AJ749346 <i>Bungarus sindanus</i>	0.146	0.132	0.134	0.134	0.167	0.167	0.168	0.132	0.138							
11 AJ749328 <i>Bungarus candidus</i>	0.152	0.089	0.092	0.092	0.155	0.146	0.154	0.148	0.168	0.134						
12 AJ749321 <i>Bungarus candidus</i>	0.151	0.092	0.096	0.096	0.154	0.142	0.152	0.147	0.169	0.142	0.012					
13 AJ565002 <i>Bungarus multicinctus</i>	0.160	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.151	0.147	0.147	0.152	0.172	0.141	0.030	0.031				
14 AY973270 <i>Bungarus bungaroides</i>	0.210	0.185	0.189	0.189	0.179	0.185	0.176	0.201	0.216	0.197	0.183	0.177	0.175			
15 AJ749306 <i>Bungarus slowinskii</i>	0.201	0.180	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.190	0.176	0.201	0.206	0.193	0.181	0.178	0.176	0.096		
16 AJ749351 <i>Bungarus flaviceps</i>	0.201	0.190	0.193	0.193	0.192	0.202	0.188	0.213	0.203	0.205	0.190	0.192	0.186	0.187	0.193	
17 AY058965 <i>Malpolon monspessulanus</i>	0.249	0.220	0.224	0.224	0.233	0.241	0.223	0.229	0.233	0.230	0.229	0.227	0.228	0.211	0.211	0.228

**Supplementary Table 4.** Details of museum voucher numbers, localities, and GenBank accession numbers of samples used in this study.

Species	GenBank Accession Number	Locality	Reference
<i>Bungarus bungaroides</i>	AY973270	Medog, Medog County, Xizang, China	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	AJ749305	Pakistan	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus candidus</i>	AJ749328	Thailand	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus candidus</i>	AJ749321	Vietnam	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus ceylonicus</i>	KC347457	Srilanka	PYRON et al. 2013
<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	AJ749350	Vicinity of Jolo, Central Java, Indonesia	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	AJ749347	Thailand	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	MW596475	Mizoram, India	This study
<i>Bungarus flaviceps</i>	AJ749351	Bukit Larut, Perak, Malaysia	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus lividus</i>	MW596472	Baridua, Meghalaya, India	This study
<i>Bungarus multicinctus</i>	AJ565002	Taiwan	KUCH2003
<i>Bungarus niger</i>	AJ749304	Naudanda, Zone Gandaki, Nepal	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus niger</i>	MW596473	Mizoram, India	This study
<i>Bungarus niger</i>	MW596474	Mizoram, India	This study
<i>Bungarus sindanus</i>	AJ749346	Pakistan	KUCH 2007
<i>Bungarus slowinskii</i>	AJ749306	Van Yen, District, Yen Bai, Vietnam	KUCH 2007