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ABNORMAL TAIL GENERATION OR TAIL BIFURCATION IN *EUTROPIS CARINATA* (SCHNEIDER,1801), FROM THE SATARA, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.

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Abstract: - Skinks are lizards belonging to the family scincidae which is one of the most diverse families of lizards. Most species of Skinks have long tapering tails, the tail can be shed to distract the predators. In such species tail can be regenerated. The new tail is often shorter and with cartilage rather than bony vertebrae. In some cases, abnormal tail regeneration may occur. Presently in the hill range of Mahabaleshwar parts of Satara district we have observed *Eutropis carinata* with tail bifurcation.

Keywords: - mabuya ,skink ,*Eutropis carinata*, regeneration, tail bifurcation.

The keeled Indian mabuya *Eutropis carinata* is a species of skink found commonly in South Asia. Body robust; snout moderate, obtuse. Lower eyelids scaly; vertebral scales smooth. Ear-opening roundish, sub-triangular. Brown to olive or bronze in color above, uniform or with dark-brown or black spots, or longitudinal streaks along the lateral margins of the scales. Sides are dark-brown or chestnut, with or without light spots. A light dorso-lateral line starting from above the eye and continued to the base of the tail. Lower parts whitish or yellowish. Maximum length: 37 cm. and Common length: 25, in which Snout-vent length is 9 cm (Gray, 1846; Smith, 1935). *Eutropis carinata* is oviparous; clutches of this species is reported 2-20, they are laying their eggs at a time in a self-excavated hole or under fallen logs, between August and September. Eggs are measuring 11x17 mm. Hatchlings emerge between May and June, measure 12–12.5 mm. usually this species feeds on crickets, caterpillars, beetles and earthworms, as a part of the ecosystem they have to play very important role in the food chain cycle, but still they have to save their life from the predators, some time with sacrificing their body parts like limbs or tail, Some lizards when caught by the tail will shed part of it in attempting to escape, in many species the detached tail will continue to wriggle, creating a deceptive sense of continued struggle, and distracting the predator's attention from the fleeing prey animal. In addition, many species of lizards such as geckos, lacertid and skinks have elaborately colored tails which have been shown to divert predatory attacks toward the tail and away from the body and head. Depending upon the species, the animal may be able to partially regenerate its tail, typically over a period of weeks or months. Though functional, the new tail section often is shorter and will contain cartilage rather than regenerated vertebrae of bone, and in color and texture the skin of the regenerated organ generally differs distinctly from its original appearance. In some cases of incomplete caudal autotomy, additional tail sections may develop because the process of tail regeneration can be initiated even in cases where the old tail section is still firmly attached to the body, and some specimens may survive for a period with deformed tails (Strijbosch, 1999). The tail bifurcation is known for several lizard families but is considered rare, sometimes, trifurcations, and even hexafurcations, may occur (Dudek & Ekner–Grzyb, 2014; Pheasey et al., 2014; Koleska & Jablonski, 2015;

Passos et al., 2016; Pelegrin & Leão, 2015). Tail bifurcations have been recorded in some agamidae, lacertids and gekkonids species (Ananjeva & Danov, 1991; Martins et al., 2013; Strijbosch, 1999; Stojanov et al., 2011; Dudek & Ekner–Grzyb, 2014; De Andrade et al., 2015).

Recently, on 25the February 2021, at around 17.00hr, during our field survey in the hill ranges of Mahabaleshwar (17° 55' 37.812" N 73° 39' 30.4632" E) parts of Satara district we have observed two individual of The keeled Indian mabuya *Eutropis carinata* active on ground, there was something weird can be seen with one of it, whicle observed carefully we noticed that the adult *Eutropis carinata* was having abnormal tail generation or tail bifurcation, as a evidence we have taken the pictures of animal without disturbing it with the DSlr camera for the further study, there are three segment can be seen generated at the base of the tail (image 1), which may be first report of the abnormal tail generation in *Eutropis carinata* from India. We suggest that specimens with tail bifurcations are rare and need to investigate the reasons properly, this could be our first record from India

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Image 1, Abnormal tail generation or tail bifurcations in *Eutropis carinata*