



Ophiophagus Kaalinga

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Recently, Karnataka's [king cobra](#) species, known locally as '**Kaalinga Sarpa,**' is officially named **Ophiophagus Kaalinga** in the scientific community.

- **King cobras** were **first classified in 1836** as **Ophiophagus hannah** by Danish naturalist **Theodore Edward Cantor**.
 - **King cobras underwent no genetic studies for 186 years until recently.**
- The king cobra has been reclassified into **four distinct species** based on geographical lineages:
 - **Northern King Cobra (Ophiophagus hannah):** Found from Pakistan to eastern China and Southeast Asia.
 - **Sunda King Cobra (Ophiophagus bungarus):** Inhabits Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Malaysia, and parts of the Philippines.
 - **Western Ghats King Cobra (Ophiophagus kaalinga):** Endemic to India's [Western Ghats](#).
 - **Luzon King Cobra (Ophiophagus salvatana):** Found only on [Luzon Island, Philippines](#).
- King cobras are **diurnal (active during the day)**, feeding primarily on snakes like rat snakes, dhamans, and other cobras.
- The king cobra is the only snake that **builds and guards a nest** until the eggs hatch.
- Its venom is used in developing **pain relievers** like **Cobroxin and Nyloxin**.

Read More: [Snake Venom Neutralising Antibody](#)

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