



# CERD Green Chronicles

## BEAUTY OF COMMON VINE SNAKE *AHAETULLA NASUTA*

**Nandita Madhu**

*St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bengaluru- 560027*  
[nanditamadhu193@gmail.com](mailto:nanditamadhu193@gmail.com)

Now this beauty was in my garden, slowly, elegantly creeping its way through the fence, going about its business, when my mother called me there to watch it. I was mesmerized by its beauty and its eyes. No wonder it was given the name 'Ahaetulla' which in Sinhala language, means 'eye plucker'. It's habit of staring and striking at the eyes, when picked up, have earned it its name. My mother and I wanted to shoo it away, not because we were afraid or anything, but because we didn't want to expose it to children and adults who can be unsympathetic at times. We didn't know how else to drive it away, other than sprinkling water at it. It didn't go.



After watching the snake for a little while, I went back inside for some work. After a while, I hear kids screaming, and making sounds. I thought they were playing around. I thought the snake must've gone by then.

By the time I came back, I was greeted with the news that the children got scared, threw stones at it, and killed it.



Now, this must be a common occurrence in many neighborhoods, but this is the first time I witnessed it. My mother was upset, I was upset. That was the moment we realized that when we see a snake outside, we must be at watch the whole time. We must protect it. If any snake enters our house, call the snake catcher. Do NOT throw stones and sticks at it. Do NOT shout and make a ruckus. Do NOT harm snakes. Do NOT go closer to them in awe or wonder if you're not a professional. They're innocent. They get aggressive when attacked, or disturbed. They would not harm us intentionally. It's only a mode of defense.