

Paradise Tree Snake *Chrysopelea paradisi variabilis* on Apuao Island, Camarines Norte province, Bicol peninsula, Philippines

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Photograph by: John Mark Violeta.

Subject identified by: Cyrus Job P. Dela Cruz, Rafe M. Brown.

Location: Apuao Island, Barangay Apuao, Mercedes, Camarines Norte, Bicol peninsula, Philippines
(N 14.084810 E 123.084877).

Elevation: 1 metre.

Habitat: Beach forest with abundant Agoho (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) trees.

Date and time: 17 August 2018, 08:00hrs.

Identity of subject: Paradise Tree Snake, *Chrysopelea paradisi variabilis* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Description of record: : On the morning of 17 August 2018, an adult Paradise Tree Snake, with an estimated total length of 1.5 metres, was observed in the ceiling of a small beachfront nipa hut on Apuao Island. After making brief field notes, the observers removed the snake from the building, took some photographs (Fig. 1) and then transferred it onto a branch of an Agoho tree.



Fig. 1.

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Remarks: The Paradise Tree Snake was identified based on (i) a slender body, (ii) a depressed head distinct from its neck, (iii) large eyes with round pupil, (iv) long and slender tail and (v) vertebral region with a row of orange to reddish spots.

Chrysopelea paradisi variabilis is a Philippine endemic subspecies geographically distributed in Babuyan Islands (Calayan, Dalupiri), Balabac, Bantayan, Banton, Basilan, Camiguin, Cebu, Dinagat, Kalotkot, Leyte, Luzon (Prov.: Bataan, Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Rizal, Sorsogon, Zambales), Marongas, Masbate, Medis, Mindanao, (Prov.: Agusan del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur [Zamboanga City]), Mindoro, Negros (Prov.: Negros Oriental), Palawan, Panay (Prov.: Aklan, Antique, Iloilo), Polilo, Romblon, Samar, Siagao, Sibuyan, Siquijor, Sulu Archipelago (Bongao, Bubuan, Jolo, Sanga-Sanga, Tawi-tawi), and Tablas (Leviton et al. 2018).

This record of *Chrysopelea paradisi variabilis* is considered a new distributional record for Apuao Island.

References:

Leviton, A. E., Siler, C. D., Weinell, J. L. & Brown, R. M. (2018). Synopsis of the Snakes of the Philippines, A Synthesis of Data from Biodiversity Repositories, Field Studies, and the Literature. Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences. Series 4, Volume 64, No. 14, pp. 399-568, 122 figs [120 photos], 147 maps.