

First record of King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* on Lubang Island, Philippines

Emerson Y. SY & Roman TORRES
emersonsy@gmail.com (Sy)

Observer: Roman Torres.
Photograph by: Roman Torres.
Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Municipality of Lubang, Occidental Mindoro Province, Lubang Island.
Elevation: 50 metres ASL.
Habitat: Rocky stream in lowland, secondary forest.
Date and time: 15 May 2019, 15:00 hrs.

Identity of subject: King Cobra, *Ophiophagus hannah* (Reptilia: Squamata: Elapidae).

Description of record: A King Cobra approximately three metres in total length (Fig. 1), with no apparent external injuries, was found dead on a rocky stream bank.

Remarks: The snake was identified as a King Cobra based on (i) olive-brown dorsal body colour, (ii) large parietal and occipital scales edged in black, (iii) lack of a loreal scale, (iv) one preocular scale and (v) three postoculars (Taylor, 1922).

Lubang Island is approximately 125 square kilometres in size and is situated southwest of Luzon and northwest of Mindoro. The King Cobra has been documented previously on both Luzon and Mindoro (Taylor, 1922). This note provides the first record of the species on Lubang Island.



Fig. 1.

© Roman Torres

References:

Taylor, E.H. (1922). *The Snakes of The Philippine Islands*. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Bureau of Science, Manila. 312 pp. + 37 plates.