

Two new records of Red Whip Snake *Dryophiops rubescens* in Palawan Province, Philippines

Emerson Y. SY, Jamie Ann DICHAVES & Jojo DE PERALTA
emersonsy@gmail.com (Sy)

Observers: Jamie Ann Dichaves, Jojo De Peralta.

Photographs by: Jamie Ann Dichaves (JAD), Jojo De Peralta (JDP).

Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Locations: i) Municipality of El Nido, Palawan Island. ii) Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Island.

Elevations: i) 1 metre ASL. ii) 227 metres ASL.

Habitats: i) Beach forest. ii) Lowland secondary forest with dense undergrowth.

Date and time: i) 22 October 2016, 10:00 hrs. ii) 28 August 2017, 08:50 hrs.

Identity of subjects: Red Whip Snake, *Dryophiops rubescens* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes).

Description of records:

- i) At 10:00 hrs on 22 October 2016 a snake was observed on a tree near the beach and photographed by JAD.
- ii) At 08:50 hrs on 28 August 2017 a snake, with an estimated total length of 50 cm, was observed on top of a shrub 1.2m above the ground. Photographs were taken by JDP.



Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.

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Remarks:

The snakes were identified as *Dryophiops rubescens* based on (i) head is elongated and distinct from neck, (ii) slender body, (iii) greyish-brown to reddish brown body colour with black spots, (iv) brown stripe from snout through eye to temple, (v) eye is horizontally elliptical in shape, (vi) nasal and preocular scales longer than high, (vii) nine upper labial scales, 4th to 6th in contact with the eye (Alcala, 1986). The species is also known as 'Brown Whip Snake' and 'Keel-bellied Whip Snake' in other countries.

This species has previously been recorded on Coron Island: this note provides new locality records for the species on Palawan Island.

References:

Alcala, A.C. (1986). Guide to Philippine flora and fauna, Volume X. Amphibians and Reptiles. Natural Resources Management Center, Ministry of Natural Resources and University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines. xiv + 195 pp.