

Predation of Philippine Toad *Ingerophrynus philippinus* by Maren's Bronzeback Snake *Dendrelaphis marenae*

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Photograph by: Bianca Kaye C. Ong.

Subjects identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Lagen Island, Municipality of El Nido, Palawan Province, Philippines.

Elevation: 5 metres ASL.

Habitat: Beach adjacent to lowland tropical forest.

Date and time: 29 August 2018; 17:00 hrs.

Identity of subjects:

(i) Philippine Toad, *Ingerophrynus philippinus* (Amphibia: Anura: Bufonidae).

(ii) Maren's Bronzeback Snake, *Dendrelaphis marenae* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Colubridae).

Description of record:

A snake (total length ~60 cm) on the ground was observed biting a toad (SVL ~5 cm) on the left hind limb. The snake slithered away with the toad in its mouth and hid in rock crevices. The actual consumption was not observed.



Fig. 1.

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Remarks:

The frog was identified as *Ingerophrynus philippinicus* based on (i) uniform brown colour, (ii) tubercles all over body and limbs, (iii) a pair of cranial crests, and (iv) well-developed parotid glands (Alcala & Brown, 1998). The snake was identified as *Dendrelaphis marenae* based on (i) head elongated and distinct from neck, (ii) broad black stripe from behind the eye to anterior part of the body, (iii) dorsum is brown, (iv) flanks are black with light blue scales, and (v) enlarged vertebral scales (Vogel & van Rooijen, 2008).

As currently understood, Maren's Bronzeback Snake occurs on Sulawesi (Indonesia) and several islands in the Philippines. The Philippine Toad is endemic to Palawan faunal region. The snake is known to predate on lizards and frogs (Taylor, 1922) but, to our knowledge, this is the first documented predation attempt on a bufonid by the Maren's Bronzeback Snake in the Philippines, and the second identified snake species that predate on this toad (Sy & Apolonio, 2018). This note also provides a new island record for both species.

References:

- Alcala, A.C. & W.C. Brown. 1998. Philippine Amphibians: *An Illustrated Field Guide*. Bookmark, Inc., Makati City, Philippines. xii + 116 pp.
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- 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.
- Vogel, G. & van Rooijen, J. (2008). Contributions to a review of the *Dendrelaphis pictus* (Gmelin, 1789) complex – 2. The eastern forms. *Herpetozoa* 21(1/2): 3-29.