

## First record of *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* (Serpentes: Colubridae) in the Philippines

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**Photograph by:** Emerson Y. Sy.

**Subject identified by:** Emerson Y. Sy.

**Location:** Taganak Island, Municipality of Turtle Islands, Tawi-Tawi Province, Philippines.

**Elevation:** 5 metres ASL.

**Habitat:** Residential area.

**Date and time:** 08 September 2014, 17:00 hrs.

### Identity of subject:

Striped Bronzeback Snake, *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Colubridae)

### Description of record:

A snake (Fig. 1), with a total length of 108.4 cm was observed slithering on unpaved ground in a residential area and was collected as a voucher specimen.

### Remarks:

The snake was identified as *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* based on (i) head elongated and distinct from neck, (ii) eye is large with round pupil, (iii) nine upper labials, 5th and 6th in contact with the eye, (iv) one preocular, (v) two postoculars, (vi) postocular stripe absent, (vii) black longitudinal stripes along the entire length of the body, (viii) 13 scale rows at midbody, (ix) vertebral scales not enlarged, (x) dorsal body colour is brown anteriorly and reddish-brown posteriorly, and (xi) ventral colour pale greenish-yellow (van Rooijen and Vogel, 2012)

Members of the *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* complex in the Philippines were previously considered subspecies, but were elevated to species rank in a taxonomic revision by van Rooijen and Vogel (2012). The five members of this complex currently recognized in the Philippines are *Dendrelaphis flavescens*, *D. fuliginosus*, *D. levitoni*, *D. luzonensis*, and *D. philippinensis*. The distribution of *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* (sensu stricto) is from southern peninsular Thailand through the Malay Peninsula to most of Sundaland (including Sumatra and Borneo).

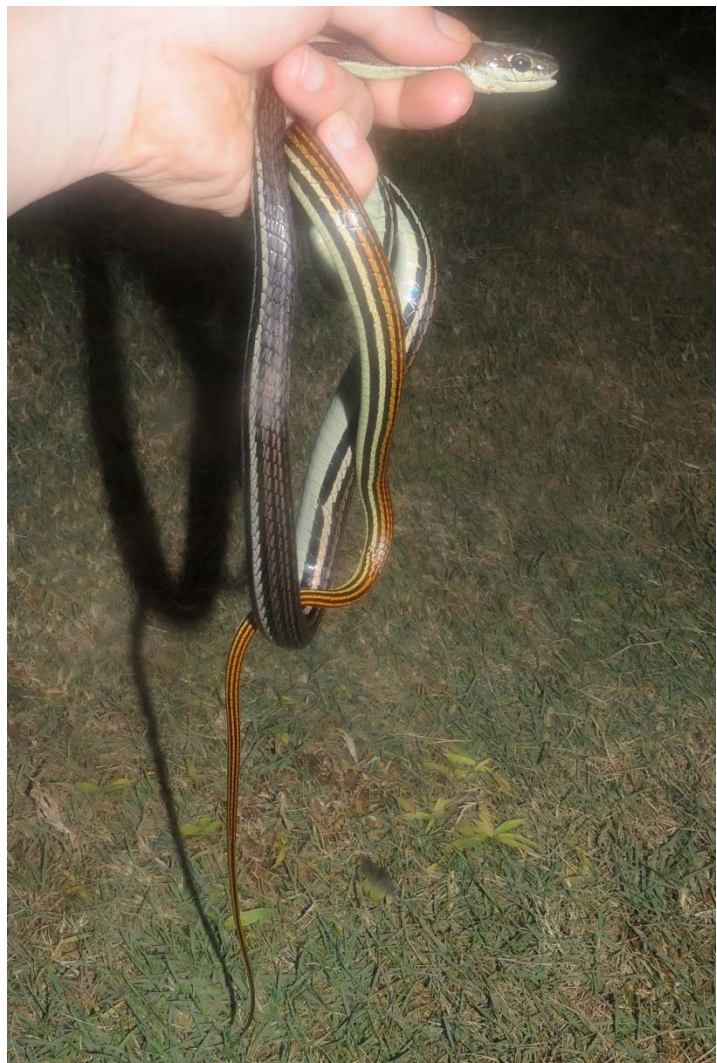


Fig. 1.

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This note provides the first record of *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* in the Philippines. The voucher specimen (field number EYS 373) from Taganak Island was deposited in the Herpetology Section of the Natural History Museum of the Philippines in Manila City.

#### **Acknowledgements**

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#### **References:**

van Rooijen, J. & Vogel, G. (2012). A revision of the taxonomy of *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* (Gray, 1834) (Serpentes: Colubridae). *Zootaxa* 3272:1-25.