

First record of Northern Philippine Cobra *Naja philippinensis* in Babuyan Island Group, Philippines

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Observer: Jameson B. Reynon.
Photograph by: Jameson B. Reynon.
Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Calayan Island, Barangay Magsidel, Municipality of Calayan, Cagayan Province, Philippines.
Elevation: 64 metres ASL.
Habitat: Residential area in rural setting.
Date and time: 10 August 2020, 14:00 hrs.

Identity of subjects: Northern Philippine Cobra, *Naja philippinensis* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Elapidae).

Description of record: A juvenile snake measuring 33 cm in total length was observed on dirt ground in a residential area (Fig. 1). After photo documentation, the snake was relocated to a less populated area.



Fig. 1

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Remarks: The snake was identified as *Naja philippinensis* based on (i) head colour is olive brown, (ii) neck with irregular dark blotches, (iii) dorsal body colour is dark grey with light scales forming irregular bands, and (iv) loreal scale is absent (Taylor, 1922). This endemic species is known to occur on the following islands: Catanduanes, Lubang, Luzon, Mindoro, Marinduque, and Masbate (Sy and Taggug, 2018).

The Babuyan Island Group is situated north of Luzon Island and is composed of Babuyan Claro, Calayan, Camiguin Norte, Dalupiri, Fuga, Barit, Didicas, Dilayag, Irao, Mabag, Pamoctan and Panuitan (Oliveros et al., 2011).

This note provides the first record of the Northern Philippine Cobra in Babuyan Island Group and on Calayan Island.

References:

Oliveros, C.H., Ota, H., Crombie, R.I. and Brown, R.F. (2011). The herpetofauna of the Babuyan Islands, northern Philippines. *Scientific Papers of the Natural History Museum, University of Kansas* 43: 1-20.

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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.