

## King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* on Culion Island, Palawan Province, Philippines

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**Observer:** Gerd Schulte.

**Photograph by:** Gerd Schulte.

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

**Location:** Culion Island, Barangay Balala, Municipality of Culion, Palawan Province, Philippines.

**Elevation:** 70 metres ASL.

**Habitat:** Residential area adjacent to secondary forest.

**Date and time:** 31 March 2018, 11:00 hrs.

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

**Description of record:** A snake, measuring approximately 200 cm in total length, was observed climbing up a cliff (Fig. 1).

**Remarks:** : The snake was identified as *Ophiophagus hannah* based on (i) large parietal and occipital scales (faintly visible in this image), (ii) dorsal body colour is uniform brown, and (iii) ventral colour is pale yellow (visible in this image in the anterior part of the body).

The King Cobra has a widespread distribution in the Philippines and has been recorded in the Palawan faunal region on the islands of Balabac, Busuanga, Minoloc, North Guntao, Palawan, and Pangulasian (Sy and Dichaves, 2017; Sy and Weaver, 2020).

Culion Island is situated north of Palawan Island and is part of the Calamian island group. This note may be the first published record of King Cobra on Culion.



Fig. 1.

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### References:

Sy, E.Y. and Dichaves, J.A.L. (2017). Geographic distribution: *Ophiophagus hannah* (King Cobra): Philippines, Pangulasian Island. *Herpetological Review* 48(3): 591.

Sy, E.Y. and Weaver, T. (2020). First record of King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* in Calamian island group, Philippines. *Southeast Asia Vertebrate Records* 2020: 4-5.