

Equatorial Spitting Cobra *Naja sumatrana* on Pangulasian Island, Palawan Province, Philippines

Emerson Y. SY and Bianca Kaye C. ONG
emersonsy@gmail.com (Sy)

Observer: Bianca Kaye C. Ong.
Photograph by: Bianca Kaye C. Ong.
Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Pangulasian Island, Municipality of El Nido, Palawan Province, Philippines.
Elevation: 10 metres ASL.
Habitat: Beach forest.
Date and time: 27 September 2019, 19:00 hrs.

Identity of subject: Equatorial Spitting Cobra, *Naja sumatrana* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Elapidae).

Description of record: A juvenile snake, measuring approximately 40 cm in total length, was found inside a building at a beach resort (Fig. 1). The snake was caught, photographed and relocated unharmed to an area with less foot traffic.

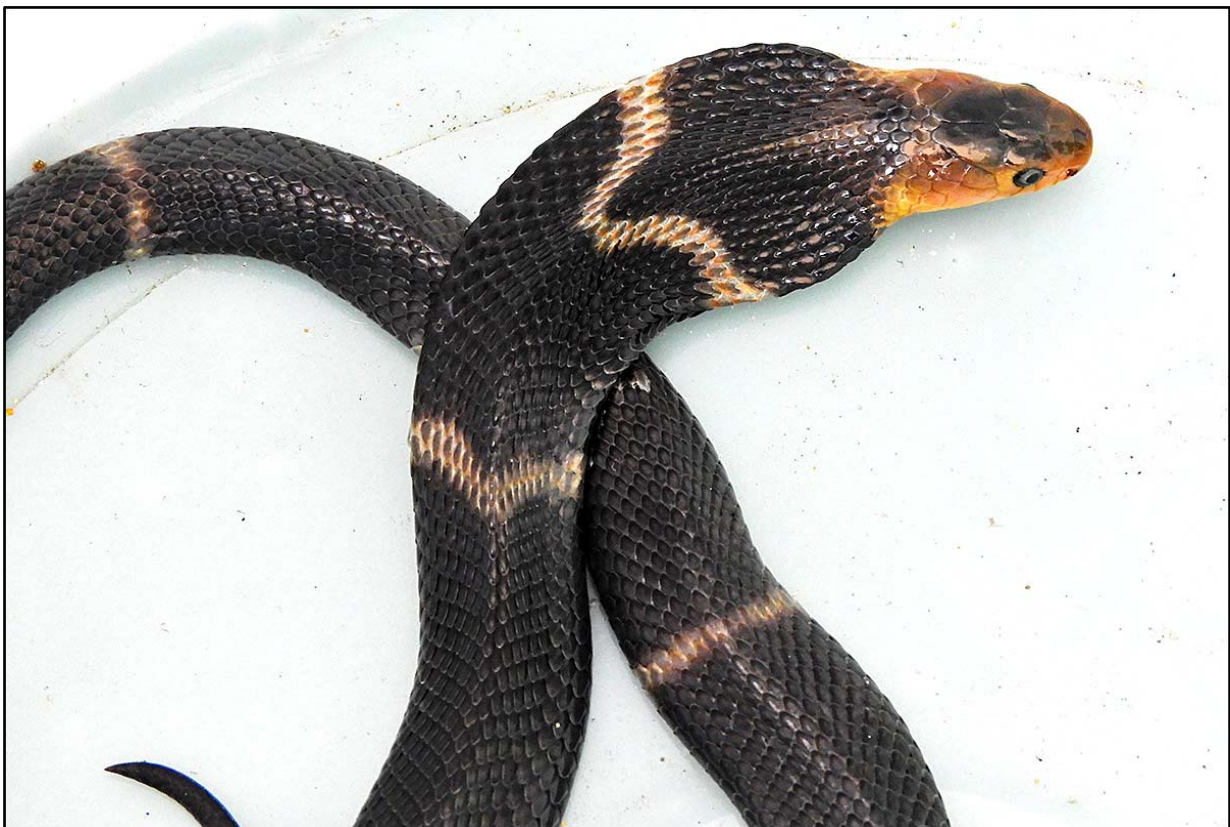


Fig. 1.

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Remarks: The snake was identified as *Naja sumatrana* based on (i) dorsal body colour is black with 11 yellowish brown bands; the first two anterior bands are V-shaped, (ii) 19 scale rows at midbody, (iii) 1 preocular, (iv) 2 postoculars, (v) 7 upper labials, and (vi) loreal scale is absent (Taylor, 1922). The presence of narrow, pale bands on juveniles of *Naja sumatrana* is typical for the Palawan faunal region.

The Equatorial Cobra has been recorded in Palawan faunal region on the islands of Busuanga, Calait, Culion, and Palawan (Gaulke, 1999; Sy et al., 2016; Taylor, 1922). This note provides the first record of the species on Pangulasian Island.

References:

Gaulke, M. 1999. Die Herpetofauna von Calait Island (Calaamiaanes-Inseln, Provinz Palawan, Philippinen) (Amphibia et Reptilia). Faunistische Abhandlungen 21: 273-282.

Sy, E.Y., Dycoco, Q.S., Jr., Rodriguez A.Z.A., Du, S.G., Wisco, M.A.S., Pangilinan, C.M.M. and Banaguas, G.S. (2016). Geographic distribution: *Naja sumatrana* (Equatorial Spitting Cobra): Philippines, Busuanga Island. Herpetological Review 47(3): 427-428.

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.