

Predation of Many-lined Sun Skink (*Eutropis multifasciata*) on a juvenile sun skink (*Eutropis* sp.)

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Photographs by: Jake Wilson B. Binaday.

Subjects identified by: Jake Wilson B. Binaday.

Location: Municipality of Coron, Palawan Province, Philippines.

Elevation: 120 metres ASL.

Habitat: Rocky, shallow stream.

Date and time: 28 April 2020, 13:31 hrs.

Identity of subjects:

(i) Many-lined Sun Skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae)

(ii) Sun skink, *Eutropis* sp. (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae)

Description of record: An adult Many-lined Sun Skink was observed approaching a juvenile sun skink (*Eutropis* sp.) and nabbed it by its body. The juvenile sun skink wriggled in an attempt to escape, while the Many-lined Sun Skink repeatedly bit its prey (Figures 1 and 2). As the observers attempt to capture the Many-lined Sun Skink to identify the prey, it dashed under a large boulder preventing its capture.



Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.

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Remarks: The adult predator sun skink was identified as *Eutropis multifasciata* based on (i) an estimated SVL of 10 cm, (ii) 3 keels on dorsal scales, (iii) uniform brown color, (iv) and its geographic location with only two known species of *Eutropis* in Palawan province, the other species being *Eutropis sahulinghanganan* (Brown & Alcala 1980; Barley et al. 2020). The juvenile prey sun skink was identified as belonging to the genus *Eutropis* based on its (i) cylindrical body shape, (ii) well-developed limbs with 5 digits, and (iii) medium-sized tail (Mausfeld et al. 2002).

The Many-lined Sun Skink occurs in several countries in South and Southeast Asia. It is widely distributed in the Philippines, and is observed in both pristine and disturbed habitats. The species has been known to feed on insects and freshwater crabs (Sy 2018). To our knowledge, this is the first documentation of the Many-lined Sun Skink predated on another sun skink species.

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