

## First report of *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* (Gray 1842) from Romblon Island Group, Central Philippines

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**Location:** Calatrava-San Andres-San Agustin (CALSANAG) Watershed, Mari-Norte, San Andres, Tablas Island, Philippines.

**Elevation:** 250 metres ASL.

**Habitat:** Admixture of secondary lowland forest and agroforest.

**Date and time:** September 2018.

**Identity of subject:**

Bornean Keeled Green Pitviper, *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Viperidae).

**Description of record:** Two individuals of *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* were encountered in CALSANAG Watershed Forest Reserve, one on the ground (Fig. 1) and one on a sapling branch (Fig. 2), with snout–vent lengths of approximately 75 cm and 100 cm, respectively.



Fig. 1. *Tropidolaemus subannulatus*, male.

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Fig. 2. *Tropidolaemus subannulatus*, female.

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**Remarks:**

The snakes were identified as *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* based on (i) the number of dorsal scales (13) on head along a line between the supraocular scales, (ii) third upper labial scale is separated by one scale from subocular scale (Fig. 2 & inset) and (iii) scales on both head and chin are strongly keeled. Specimens' morphological characters were obtained in the field and identified following Weinell et al.'s (2019) key on Philippine snakes. *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* along with *T. huttoni*, *T. laticinctus*, and *T. philippensis* were previously included in *T. wagleri* complex (Vogel et al. 2007), which are native to tropical Southeast Asia (Kurniawan et al. 2018).

*Tropidolaemus subannulatus* has a wide distribution in the Philippines and is currently known to occur on the islands of Balabac, Cebu, Dinagat, Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao, Palawan, Negros, Samar, Panay, Polillo, and Sulu archipelago (Alcala 1986; Vogel et al. 2007; Brown et al. 2013; Malaki et al. 2020; Supsup et al. 2020). It has also been documented in Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia (Leviton et al. 2014; Das and Charles 2015). This record represents the first observation of *T. subannulatus* from the Romblon Island Group as it was not included in the recent herpetofaunal report of the region (Siler et al. 2012).

This venomous species can thrive in a wide range of habitats, including lowland and lower montane tropical moist forest, secondary forests, and agricultural plantations. Due to its wide geographic distribution, it is presumed to have a large population, and likely tolerant to habitat modifications. At present, the International Union for Conservation of Nature listed the species as "Least Concern" (Auliya et al. 2012). Furthermore, due to its vibrant colorations, the species is often targeted for the international and local pet trade (Sy 2018).

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