

First record of King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* in Tawi-Tawi Province, Philippines

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Observer: Martin D. Buddi.
Photograph by: Martin D. Buddi.
Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Tandubas Island, Barangay Tangngah, Tandubas Municipality, Tawi-Tawi Province, Philippines.
Elevation: 1 metre ASL.
Habitat: Agricultural area.
Date and time: 04 August 2020, 08:30 hrs.

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

Description of record:
A snake (Fig. 1), approximately 61 cm in total length, was initially observed in a sugar apple tree (*Annona squamosa*) four feet above ground. The snake was eventually killed by a resident out of fear.



Fig. 1.

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Remarks:

The snake was identified as a juvenile *Ophiophagus hannah* based on (i) a pair of large occipital scales, (ii) dorsum is black, (iii) dorsal head and nape with pale yellow markings, (iv) presence of narrow white crossbands throughout the body and tail (Taylor, 1920).

Tandubas Island is situated southeast of Tawi-Tawi Island in Sulu Archipelago. This note provides the first record of King Cobra on Tandubas Island and in Tawi-Tawi Province.

References:

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.