

First record of King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* on Guimaras Island, Philippines

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Photographs by: Sharie Tayco.

Subject identified by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Guimaras Island, Guimaras Province, Municipality of Nueva Valencia, Barangay Lucmayan, Philippines.

Elevation: 18 metres ASL.

Habitat: Agricultural area adjacent to mangrove forests.

Date and time: 3 August 2022, 12:00 hrs.

Identity of subject:

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

Description of record:

A small snake (Figs. 1A and 1B) was caught by residents and turned over to the local government unit for relocation.



Figs. 1A and 1B.

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Remarks:

The hatchling-sized snake was identified as *Ophiophagus hannah* based on (i) loreal scale is absent, (ii) a pair of large occipital scales, (iii) dorsum uniform black with light chevron markings, and (iv) ventral scales with black narrow crossbands (Gaulke, 2011).

Guimaras Island is situated southeast of Panay Island and northwest of Negros Island; it has a land area of approximately 605 sq. km and elevation rises to 272 metres asl. Barangay Lucmayan is situated in the southwest of the island. This note provides the first record of the species on Guimaras Island.

References:

Gaulke, M. (2011). The herpetofauna of Panay Island, Philippines – an illustrated field guide. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 390 pp.