

Record of Northern Philippine Temple Pit Viper (*Tropidolaemus subannulatus*) in Davao de Oro Province, Mindanao Island, Philippines

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Observer: Lemuel S. Diadula.

Photograph by: Lemuel S. Diadula.

Subject identified by: Roxan G. Eupenia, Russel Evan L. Venturina, Arturo G. Gracia, Jr.

Location: Barangay Awao, Municipality of Monkayo, Davao de Oro Province, Mindanao Island, Philippines.

Elevation: 300 metres ASL.

Habitat: Lowland secondary forest and agroforest.

Date and time: 28 March 2023, 11:00 hrs.

Identity of subject:

Northern Philippine Temple Pit Viper, *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Viperidae).

Description of record:

A male *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* (Fig. 1) was encountered during fieldwork near the forest edge, in a semi-closed canopy area. The snout-vent length of the snake was approximately 70 cm. After the photographic documentation, the snake was released unharmed at the same location.



Figure 1.

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Remarks:

Following the morphological description provided by Vogel et al. (2007), the snake was identified as a male *Tropidolaemus subannulatus*. Locally known as “dupong”, the snake has the following morphological characteristics: (i) the inter-nasals separated by 2 scales, never in contact, (ii) a background color in the shades of green, (iii) crossbands around the red and white, white spots or white and red spots in males and juveniles; (iv) the belly is uniform, and (v) scales on both head and chin are strongly keeled.

Tropidolaemus subannulatus occurs in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. It is widely distributed in the Philippines and known to occur on the islands of Balabac, Basilan, Bohol, Cebu, Dinagat, Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao (Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Zamboanga City), Negros, Palawan, Panay, Polillo, Romblon, Samar, and Sulu Archipelago (Jolo, Siasi, Sibutu, Tawi-Tawi, Tumindao) (Alcala 1986; Vogel et al. 2007; Brown et al. 2013; Leviton et al., 2018; Malaki et al. 2020; Amarga and Supsup 2020; Supsup et al. 2020). The presence of this species on Mindanao has been reported previously. However, this observation is the first record for Davao de Oro Province.

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