Evermann’s snake-eel *Ophichthus lithinus* eating octopus

**Subjects:** Evermann’s snake-eel, *Ophichthus lithinus* (Teleostei: Ophichthidae). Octopus, unidentified (Mollusca: Cephalopoda: Octopodidae).

**Subject identified by:** Kelvin K. P. Lim (fish only).

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits, Sisters Islands; 20 February 2007; 0516 hrs.

**Habitat:** Intertidal coral reef flat at low tide.

**Observer:** Ria Tan.

**Observation:** A snake-eel of about 80 cm total length was observed subduing and swallowing a small live octopus within minutes in very shallow water during a morning low tide.

**Remarks:** This distinctively marked snake eel reaches around 90 cm in total length. It inhabits river mouths and coastal waters with muddy bottoms, and was previously known as *Ophichthus evermanni* (Matsunuma & Imamura, 2011: 27). The present observation is of interest as little is known of the diet of this species.


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