

Giant mudskipper preying on crab-eating water snake

Subjects: Giant mudskipper, *Periophthalmodon schlosseri* (Teleostei: Gobiidae);
Crab-eating water snake, *Fordonia leucobalia*. (Reptilia: Serpentes: Homalopsidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Pasir Ris Park, below mangrove boardwalk, 11 June 2015; 0930 hrs.

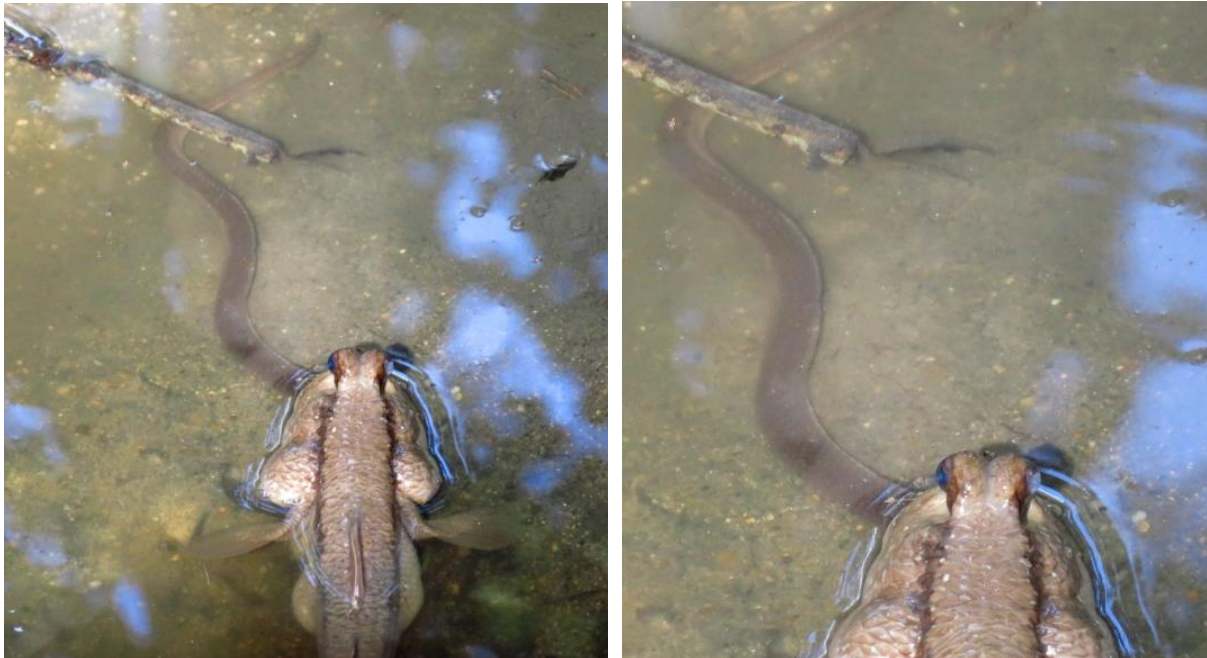
Habitat: Estuarine. Small patch of mangrove forest in urban parkland.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A giant mudskipper of about 20 cm total length was encountered with the anterior section of a snake (believed to be a crab-eating water snake), estimated to be around 30 cm total length, inside its mouth (see accompanying pictures). Within a minute, the entire snake was swallowed in a manner not unlike the slurping up of a piece of noodle.

Remarks: The giant mudskipper is carnivorous, and known to be a voracious predator of crabs and other mudskippers (Larson & Lim, 2005: 129). The present observation is interesting as the prey seems to be significantly longer than the fish.

Reference: Larson, H. K. & K. K. P. Lim, 2005. *A Guide to Gobies of Singapore*. Singapore Science Centre. 164 pp.



Dorsal view of giant mudskipper swallowing a snake. The fish's bulging abdomen on the left picture indicates that at least one-third to half of the snake had already been ingested. Photographs by Serin Subaraj

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