

## Kopstein's bronzeback eating painted bronzeback

**Subjects:** Kopstein's bronzeback, *Dendrelaphis kopsteini* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae);  
Painted bronzeback, *Dendrelaphis pictus* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae).

**Subjects identified by:** A. Sankar.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, edge of Lower Peirce Reservoir; 27 January 2015; 1658 hrs.

**Habitat:** Secondary forest.

**Observers:** Contributor, with Sarah Wee, Joys Tan, Jayasri and Sophie Borthwick.

**Observation:** A Kopstein's bronzeback over 1 m in total length was encountered in the process of eating a significantly smaller painted bronzeback on the forest floor. The smaller snake was being swallowed alive and tail first (see accompanying picture, with arrow pointing at the head of the painted bronzeback). After having devoured its prey, the same Kopstein's bronzeback was reported by another group of observers to have pursued a green crested lizard (*Bronchocela cristatella*) for its next meal.

**Remarks:** The Kopstein's bronzeback is known to feed on lizards and frogs (Baker & Lim, 2012: 100). The present observation shows that its diet also includes snakes.

**Reference:** Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.



Photograph by Lynn Ng

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