

## Juvenile king cobra at Mandai

**Subject:** King cobra, *Ophiophagus hannah* (Reptilia: Serpentes: Elapidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributors.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, end of Mandai Lake Road, in the compound of Singapore Zoo; unrecorded date in October 2013; around 1500 hrs.

**Habitat:** Parkland bordered by secondary forest and freshwater lake (Upper Seletar Reservoir).

**Observers:** Contributors.

**Observation:** A juvenile example of between 60 and 70 cm total length was caught on a pathway outside an exhibit. See attached picture of the snake in defensive posture.

**Remarks:** In Singapore, the king cobra has been found in forest to urban areas (Lim et al, 2011). It is of interest to note that the featured individual, despite its relatively small size, is devoid of the banded colour pattern characteristic of juveniles. Hatchling king cobras measure around 35 cm in total length (Young, 1991).



Photograph by Samuel Tay Gang Ming

### References:

- Lim, K. K. P., T. M. Leong & F. L. K. Lim, 2011. The king cobra, *Ophiophagus hannah* (Cantor) in Singapore (Reptilia: Squamata: Elapidae). *Nature in Singapore*. 4: 143-156.
- Young, B. A. 1991. Morphological basis of "growling" in the king cobra, *Ophiophagus hannah*. *The Journal of Experimental Zoology*. 260: 275-287.

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