

King cobra at Sungei Buloh

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

Subject identified by: Elian Rakhmanaliev.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Route 1; 6 November 2011, 1615–1835 hrs.

Habitat: Mangrove vegetation.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: An example of about 1.5 m total length was spotted resting in the roof of observation screen 1.11 (Fig. 1). The eyes appear to be semi-opaque and whitish. Two hours later (about 1820 hrs), the king cobra was found emerging from the roof space (Fig. 2). In 5-10 minutes it relocated to the nearest tree and moved slowly away (Fig. 3).

Remarks: The whitish eyes of the king cobra indicate that the specimen was preparing for ecdysis (skin-shedding). In Singapore, the king cobra has been found in various areas (Lim et al, 2011). This is one of few instances where an example is found in an elevated position away from the ground.

Reference: 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.



Fig. 1. King cobra resting in the roof. Photograph by Elian Rakhmanaliev

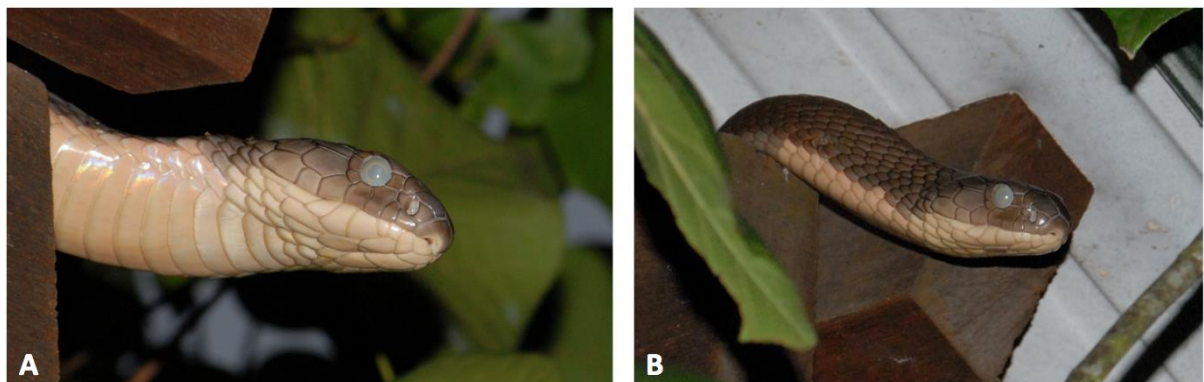


Fig. 2. King cobra emerges from the roof space of an observation screen. Photographs by Elian Rakhmanaliev



Fig. 3. The cobra relocating to a nearby tree and moving slowly away. Photograph by Elian Rakhmanaliev

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