Juvenile king cobra at Pasir Laba Road

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

Subject identified by: Craig Justin Tan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Pasir Laba Road; 4 August 2018; around 1700 hrs.

Habitat: Asphalt road next to secondary forest.

Observer: Craig Justin Tan.

Observation: A juvenile king cobra of around 60 cm total length was found dead and covered with ants on the road. While there were no obvious vehicular marks on the specimen, it is likely that the snake was run over. An in-situ dorsal view of this specimen is shown in the accompanying picture.

Remarks: In Singapore, king cobras are considered to be locally endangered (Lim et al., 2008). Examples recorded near the featured observation in the south-western part of Singapore Island include one observed swimming in the Sarimbun Reservoir in 2007 (Lim et al., 2011), and a large individual attacking a reticulated python, *Malayopython reticulatus* in the campus of the Nanyang Technological University in 2015 (Ambede, 2015). The presence of a juvenile king cobra at Pasir Laba suggests that the species is likely to be breeding in the Western Catchment Area.

References:

Photograph by Craig Justin Tan