

Biodiversity Record: A juvenile jasper cat snake at Upper Seletar

James Chua

Email: jamez1411@yahoo.com

Recommended citation. Chua J (2023) Biodiversity Record: A juvenile jasper cat snake at Upper Seletar. Nature in Singapore, 16: e2023099. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2023-0099

Subject: Jasper cat snake, *Boiga jaspidea* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Subject identified by: Emmanuel Goh.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Seletar Reservoir Park; 7 September 2023; around 2045 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of secondary forest.

Observers: Joey Song Xinru, Lynn He, Chia Da Hsu, James Chua, Emmanuel Goh and Elliot James Ong.

Observation: A juvenile example of around 35–40 cm (Figs. 1–4) was observed on a low shrub at the forest edge.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the entire snake, in-situ (Photograph by: James Chua).

Remarks: In Singapore, the jasper cat snake appears to be rare, and is regarded as ‘critically endangered’. All recent records have come from the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (including adjacent nature parks and the compound of the Singapore Zoo), as well as Pulau Tekong (Figueroa et al., 2023).

The featured specimen is likely to be a neonate, as hatchling *Boiga jaspidea* are 39–40 cm (see Das, 2010). It appears to be darker and less reddish compared to an adult (see pictures in Lim & Lee, 1989; Baker & Lim, 2012; Charlton, 2020).

Literature cited:

- Baker N & Lim KKP (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.
- Charlton T (2020) A Guide to Snakes of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, viii + 300 pp.
- Das I (2010) A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd., London, 376 pp.
- Figueroa A, Low MEY & Lim KKP (2023) Singapore’s herpetofauna: updated and annotated checklist, history, conservation, and distribution. Zootaxa, 5287: 1–378.
- Lim FLK & Lee MT-M (1989) Fascinating Snakes of Southeast Asia – An Introduction. Tropical Press Sdn. Bhd., Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, xvii + 124 pp.

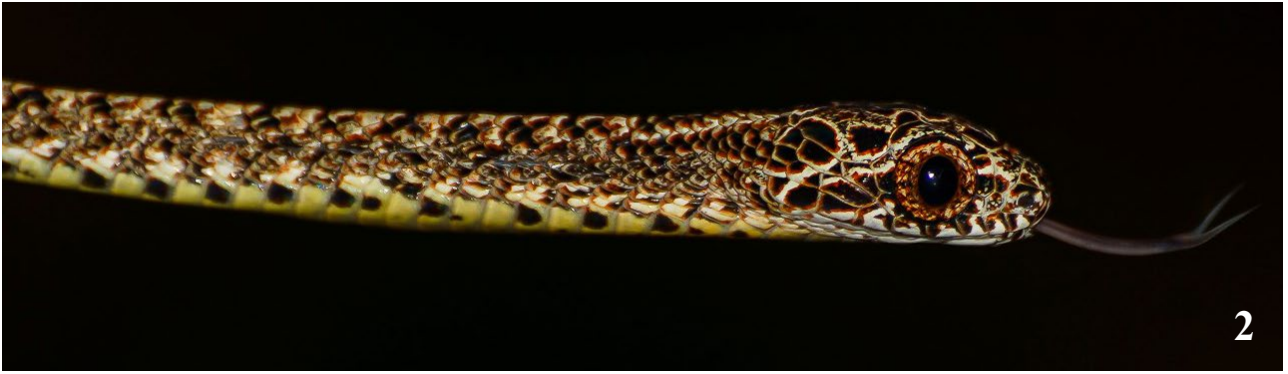


Fig. 2. Lateral view of the head and neck of the subject, with tongue extruded. Fig. 3. Dorsal view of the subject's head and neck. Fig. 4. Lateral view of the head and neck, and dorsal view of the anterior body (Photographs by: James Chua).