

Evermann's snake-eel *Ophichthus lithinus* eating octopus

Subjects: Evermann's snake-eel, *Ophichthus lithinus* (Teleostei: Ophichthidae).
Octopus, unidentified (Mollusca: Cephalopoda: Octopodidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim (fish only).

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, Sisters Islands; 20 February 2007; 0516 hrs.

Habitat: Intertidal coral reef flat at low tide.

Observer: Ria Tan.

Observation: A snake-eel of about 80 cm total length was observed subduing and swallowing a small live octopus within minutes in very shallow water during a morning low tide.

Remarks: This distinctively marked snake eel reaches around 90 cm in total length. It inhabits river mouths and coastal waters with muddy bottoms, and was previously known as *Ophichthus evermanni* (Matsunuma & Imamura, 2011: 27). The present observation is of interest as little is known of the diet of this species.

Reference: Matsunuma, M. & H. Imamura, 2011. Ophichthidae. In: Matsunuma, M., H. Motomura, K. Matsuura, M. S. Noor Azhar & A. Mohd Azmi (eds.). *Fishes of Terengganu - East Coast of Malay Peninsula, Malaysia*. National Museum of Nature and Science, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and Kagoshima University Museum. pp. 27-28.



Photograph by Ria Tan

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