

Philippine Grey-tailed Ratsnake *Coelognathus erythrurus psephenourus* on Sibuyan Island, Romblon Province, Philippines

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Photographs by: Arman N. Pili.

Subject identified by: Arvin C. Diesmos, Maren Gaulke, Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Barangay Tampayan, Municipality of Magdiwang, Sibuyan Island, Romblon Province, Philippines.
(12° 29.398'N, 122° 32.127'E; WGS 84).

Elevation: 19 metres

Habitat: Ornamental garden in a resort.

Date and time: 21 April 2017, 21:20 hrs.

Identity of subject: Philippine Grey-tailed Ratsnake, *Coelognathus erythrurus psephenourus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Description of record: A juvenile individual was observed on the ground, beneath the covers of ornamental plants, in the human-modified habitat (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.

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Remarks: The snake was identified as *Coelognathus erythrus psepheourus* based on (i) the head scales (Fig. 2), (ii) the gradual darkening of dorsal coloration of the body posteriorly and (iii) a dark brown tail (Leviton, 1979).

Although the *C. erythrus* species complex is known to be distributed throughout the Philippines (Gaulke, 2011), a recent comprehensive herpetofaunal survey conducted on the islands of Romblon Province did not record the species (Siler et al., 2012). More recently, the species was documented on Tablas Island (Sy & Tan, 2015).

This specimen of *C. erythrus psepheourus* is the first record for Sibuyan Island and the second record for Romblon Province.

Photographic vouchers were submitted to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore (Zoological Reference Collection – ZRC[IMG] 2.333).

References:

- Gaulke, M. (2011). *The Herpetofauna of Panay Island, Philippines*. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 387 pp.
- Leviton, A. E. (1979). Contributions to a review of Philippine snakes, XIII. The snakes of the genus *Elaphe*. *Philippine Journal of Science* 106: 99–128.
- Siler, C.D., Swab, J.C., Oliveros, C.H., Diesmos, A.C., Averia, L., Alcala, A.C. & Brown, R.M. (2012). Amphibians and reptiles, Romblon Island Group, central Philippines: comprehensive herpetofaunal inventory. *Check List* 8(3): 443–462.
- Sy, E. Y., & Tan, E. K. (2015) Geographic Distribution of *Coelognathus erythrus psepheourus* (Philippine Gray-tailed Ratsnake) in Tablas Island, Romblon Province, Philippines. *Herpetological Review* 46(2): 218.