Alcala's Triangle-spotted Snake *Cyclocorus lineatus alcalai* on Sibuyan Island, Romblon Province, Philippines

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Photograph by: Arman N. Pili.
Subject identified by: Maren Gaulke, Arvin C. Diesmos, Emerson Y. Sy.

Location: Barangay Jao-Asan, Municipality of Magdiwang, Sibuyan Island, Romblon Province, Philippines
(12° 27.42'N, 122° 33.92'E; WGS 84).
Elevation: 320 metres.
Habitat: Mature secondary forest.
Date and time: 16 September 2017, 11:35 hrs.

Identity of subject: Alcala's Triangle-spotted Snake, *Cyclocorus lineatus alcalai* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Description of record: A single adult male (Snout-vent length = 263mm; Tail length = 73mm; Weight 19.5g) was observed and collected on the ground with leaf litter, along a trail in mature secondary forest, within Mount Guiting-Guiting National Park. The specimen was collected under the Philippine Wildlife Gratuitous Permit # MIMAROPA-2017-0008 issued by the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources – MIMAROPA. The specimen was preserved following the standard protocol for snake preservation (McDiarmid, 1994) and deposited in the Philippine National Museum of Natural History (accession number PNM10103).

Fig. 1. Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) view of *Cyclocorus lineatus alcalai*   © Arman N. Pili

Remarks: The specimen was identified as *Cyclocorus lineatus alcalai* based on the following diagnostic features: (i) two anterior temporal scales; (ii) eight upper labial scales; (iii) 142 ventral scales; (iv) 47 subcaudal scales; (v) tail length/standard length ratio is 0.2776; (vi) venter with dark, triangularly-shaped blotches, well-developed along lateral edges of ventral shields (Fig. 1). The number of subcaudal scales of the specimen is within the range of subcaudal scales of *C. lineatus alcalai* (42–53), which is the subspecies' distinguishing characteristic from its conspecific, *C. lineatus lineatus* (52–59) (Leviton, 1967).

Cyclocorus lineatus has two described subspecies in the Philippines: *C. lineatus lineatus*, which is found on the islands of Catanduanes, Luzon, and Mindoro (north and west to Sibuyan Island, respectively), and *C. lineatus alcalai*, which is found on the islands of Cebu, Negros, Panay (which all lie south of Sibuyan Island), and Tablas (which lies west of Sibuyan Island and is the nearest part of the known range) (Ross & Gonzales, 1992; Gaulke, 2011; Siler et al., 2012).

This specimen of *C. lineatus alcalai* is the first record on Sibuyan Island and second record in Romblon Province.

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