

## First record of King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* in Cagayan Province, Luzon Island, Philippines

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**Observer:** Jovencio Payba.  
**Photograph by:** Jovencio Payba.  
**Subject identified by:** Emerson Y. Sy.

**Location:** Luzon Island, Barangay Camasi, Peñablanca Municipality, Cagayan Province, Philippines.  
**Elevation:** 52 metres ASL.  
**Habitat:** A farm lot adjacent to a densely populated residential area to the north, and corn fields to the south.  
**Date and time:** 9 June 2022, 12:00 hrs.

**Identity of subject:**  
King Cobra, *Ophiophagus hannah* (Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Elapidae).

**Description of record:**  
A snake (Fig. 1) approximately 183 cm in total length was observed in a farmland adjacent to corn fields. It was caught alive by a resident and turned over to the Rogelio Baggayan Nature Park and Wildlife Center in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Province on the same day.



Fig. 1.

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**Remarks:**

The snake was identified as *Ophiophagus hannah* based on (i) a large pair of occipital scales, (ii) dorsal scales light olive with black border, (iii) loreal scale is absent, (iv) one preocular scale, (v) three postocular scales, and (vi) seven upper labial scales, third and fourth in contact with eye (Taylor, 1920).

The King Cobra has a widespread distribution in the Philippines and has been documented on Luzon Island in the following provinces: Aurora, Benguet, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Ilocos Norte, Isabela, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Rizal, Sorsogon, and Zambales (Brown et al., 2013; Leviton et al., 2018; Sy & Letana, 2017; Urizza et al., 2017). This note provides the first record of King Cobra in Cagayan Province.

**References:**

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