

Notes on the occurrence of *Elapoidis fusca* BOIE 1827 on Borneo (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae)

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With 1 figure and 1 table

Abstract

The presence of *Elapoidis fusca* BOIE 1827 in northern Borneo is confirmed by two specimens of the species in the collection of the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main (SMF).

Elapoidis fusca BOIE 1827 is a small colubrid snake known from Java and Sumatra (BARBOUR 1912, DE ROOIJ 1917). The possible occurrence of *E. fusca* on Borneo has long been a matter of controversy. DE JONG (1930) mentioned a specimen of this species from northern Borneo in the collection of Buitenzorg Museum, Java. Probably based on this paper, DE HAAS (1950) stated the distribution of *E. fusca* to be Java, Sumatra, and Borneo. HAILE (1958), included this species in his key for the snakes of Borneo, but did not mention it in the systematic account of his checklist. The most recent list of the snakes of Borneo is that of STUEBING (1991), updated in 1994. According to STUEBING (1994a), *Elapoidis fusca* does not occur on Borneo.

While examining some snakes from Borneo in the collection of the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg (SMF), we identified two specimens as *Elapoidis fusca* (SMF 77370-1). Both snakes had been collected in 1912 on the GREUS Expedition by MOHARI in northern Borneo. These specimens confirm the presence of *E. fusca* on Borneo in 1912. The pholidosis and morphometric data of the two specimens were compared with the range values for *Elapoidis fusca* as given by DE ROOIJ (1917) and KOPSTEIN (1941) (Table 1).

Discussion

The question why *Elapoidis fusca* has not been collected on Borneo since DE JONG (1930) in spite of increased research activity on that island may have several reasons. The herpetofauna of Borneo in general is still poorly known, as demonstrated by several new records within the past few years (OTA & HIKIDA 1991, STUEBING 1994b, GÜNTHER & MANTHEY 1995, VOGEL 1995). Additionally, many of the Bornean reptiles and amphibians may have restricted distribution areas within Borneo, and do not occur on the whole island (STUEBING 1991, VOGEL 1995). Since most of the collecting has been done in Sabah and Sarawak, it is reasonable to assume that a considerable number of undescribed reptiles and amphibians will be discovered in Kalimantan.

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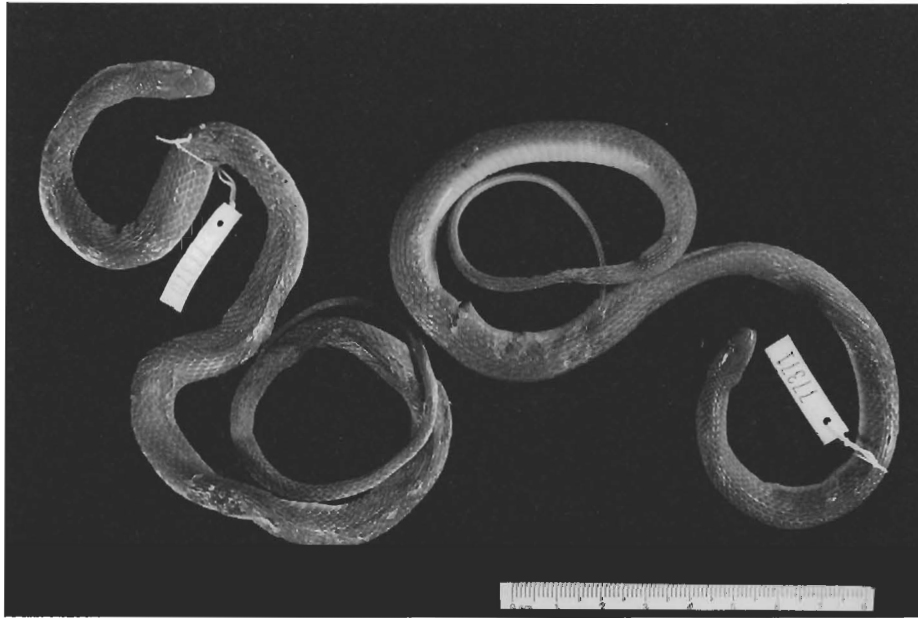


Fig. 1. Two specimens of *Elapoidis fusca* BOIE 1827 (SMF 77370-1) collected in 1912 in northern Borneo.

Table 1. Pholidosis and morphometric data of the SMF specimens compared with the range values for *Elapoidis fusca* as given by De Rooij (1917) and KOPSTEIN (1941).

Character	SMF 77370 female	SMF 77371 male	De Rooij (1917), KOPSTEIN (1941)
Total length	455 mm	467 mm (tip of tail missing)	506 mm
Tail length	115 mm	117 + mm	136 mm
Tail length/total length	25,3 %	25,1 +	24-30 %
Loreals	1	1	1
Preoculars	0	0	0
Postoculars	2	2	1-2
Anterior temporals	1	1	1
Posterior temporals	2	2	2
Supralabials	6	6	6 (5)
Supralabials in contact with orbita	3 + 4	3 + 4	3 + 4
Infralabials	7	7	7
Ventrals	148	149	144-160
Subcaudals	72	67 +	71-91
Anal plate	entire	entire	entire

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