

## King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* in southern Panay Island, Philippines

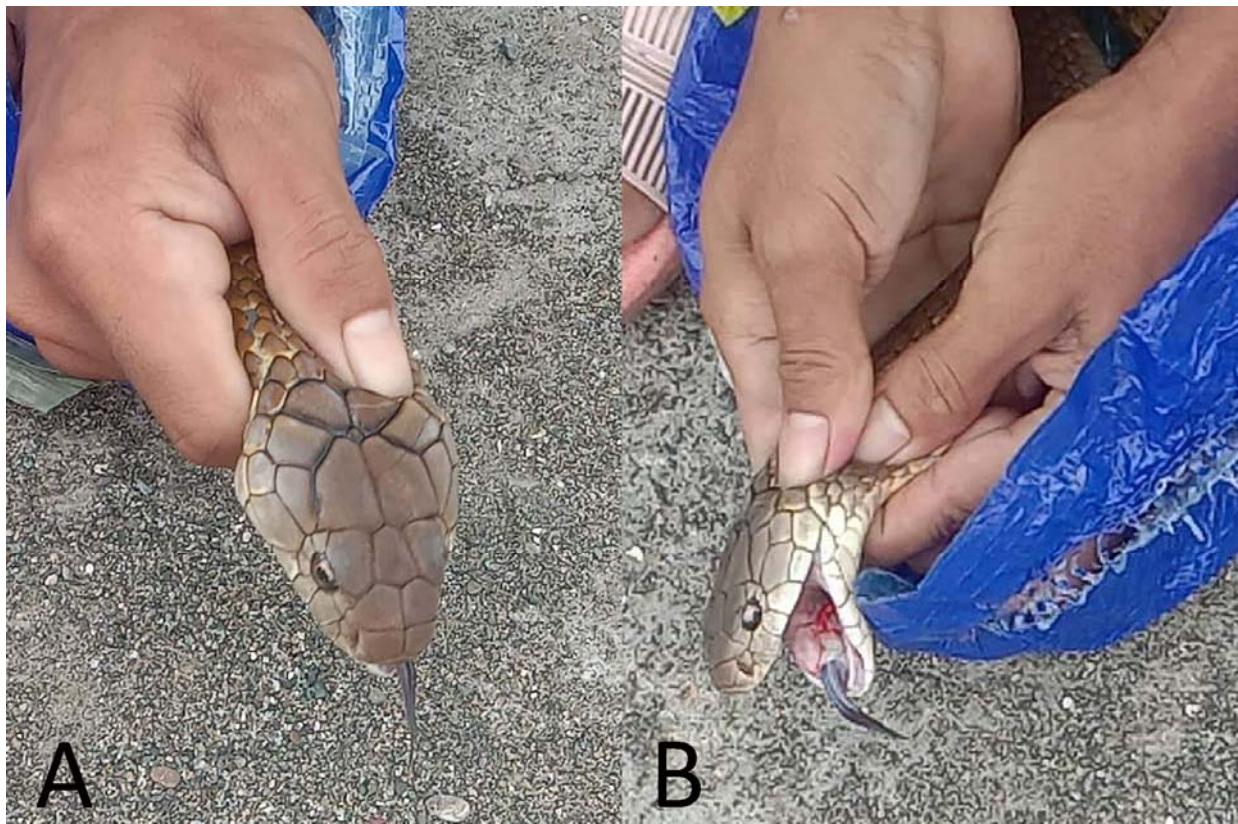
Emerson Y. SY  
[emersonsy@gmail.com](mailto:emersonsy@gmail.com)

**Observer:** Frances V. Genzola.  
**Photograph by:** Frances V. Genzola.  
**Subject identified by:** Emerson Y. Sy.

**Location:** Panay Island, Iloilo Province, Municipality of Tigbauan, Barangay Parara Sur, Philippines.  
**Elevation:** 17 metres ASL.  
**Habitat:** Residential area surrounded by agricultural land.  
**Date and time:** 1 August 2022, 15:00 hrs.

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

**Description of record:**  
A snake approximately 183 cm in total length (Figs. 1A and 1B) entered a house and was caught alive by a resident. The snake was turned over to the municipal environment and natural resources office for proper disposition.



Figs. 1A and 1B.

© Frances V. Genzola

**Remarks:**

The snake was identified as *Ophiophagus hannah* based on (i) a pair of large occipital scales, (ii) loreal scale is absent, (iii) one preocular, (iv) three postoculars, (v) dorsum uniform brown, and (vi) dorsal scales with black edges, more prominent on posterior body and tail (Taylor, 1922; Sy & Ong, 2019).

The King Cobra has a widespread distribution in the Philippines (Sy, 2022) and is known to occur in western Visayas on the islands of Cebu, Negros (Negros Occidental Province), and Panay (Aklan Province) (Gaulke et al., 2003; Leviton, 1965; Sy, 2016). This record extends the distribution by 133.6 km from the first record on Panay Island in Aklan Province, and provides the first record in southern Panay and Iloilo Province.

**References:**

- Gaulke, M., Demegillo, A., Reiter, J. and Tacud, B. (2003). Additions to the herpetofauna of Panay Island, Philippines. *Salamandra* 39(2): 111-122.
- Leviton, A.E. (1965). Contributions to a review of Philippine snakes, VII. The snakes of the genera *Naja* and *Ophiophagus*. *Philippine Journal of Science* 93(4): 531-550.
- Sy, E.Y. (Editor). 2022. Checklist of reptiles of the Philippines. Reptile & Amphibian Database Philippines. Available at: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362324825\\_Checklist\\_of\\_reptiles\\_of\\_the\\_Philippines](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362324825_Checklist_of_reptiles_of_the_Philippines).
- Sy, E.Y. (2016). Geographic distribution: *Ophiophagus hannah* (King Cobra): Philippines, Cebu Island. *Herpetological Review* 47(2): 263.
- Sy, E.Y. and Ong, B.K.C. (2019). King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* predation on Palawan Water Monitor Lizard *Varanus palawanensis* in the Philippines. *Southeast Asia Vertebrate Records* 2019: 44-45.
- Taylor, E.H. (1922). *The Snakes of The Philippine Islands*. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Bureau of Science, Manila. 312 pp. + 37 plates.