

IV. SNAKES AT CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY

In October 1971 I identified the small collection of snakes kept in the biology department at Chiang Mai University. These had mostly been collected by students, or by order of Ken Strong, a Canadian at one time teaching in the department. Few have any worthwhile collection data, and some of those collected by students may not originate in Chiang Mai. A few were collected by myself in 1970 and 1971. The specimens were identified using TAYLOR (1965) and by comparison with named specimens in the Thai National Reference Collection in Bangkok.

<i>Species</i>	<i>No. of specimens</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Typhlops cf braminus</i>	7	A very common blind snake at Chiang Mai, usually only seen above ground after heavy rain has waterlogged the soil. Some specimens sent to Dr. Taylor for confirmation of the identification were lost in the post.
<i>Cylindrophis rufus</i>	2	
<i>Elaphe radiata</i>	1	Caught in my house by my cat, 1.10.71.
<i>Ptyas korros</i>	1	
<i>Lycodon laoensis</i>	4	Seen occasionally on campus and in gardens.
<i>Oligodon cinereus</i>	1	Referable to <i>O.c. swinhonis</i> .
<i>O. cyclurus</i>	1	Found in my house after a flood, 21.5.70. Similar to Taylor's <i>O.c. smithii</i> , not the northern <i>O.c. superfluens</i> . It is a young specimen, the colour in life being "dull olive above, black markings; underside brilliant orange bordered with white, fading to white under chin". TAYLOR (p. 772) quotes TWEEDIE as saying that

<i>Species</i>	<i>No. of specimens</i>	<i>Notes</i>
		in <i>O. purpurascens</i> the young animals are much more brightly marked than the older ones; this is clearly also true for this species.
<i>Plagiopholis nuchalis</i>	1	Doi Suthep, Forest Department Headquarters, 1100 m, September 1970. All Taylor's specimens are also from Doi Suthep.
<i>Ahaetulla subocularis</i>	2	
<i>A. cf cyanochloris</i>	1	This specimen differs from the two <i>A. subocularis</i> in having 2 supralabials bordering the orbit, and a third just touching. The temporals are 1+1. This combination is nearer to <i>A. cyanochloris</i> than <i>A. ahaetulla</i> . The colouring is similar to the two <i>A. subocularis</i> , but the longitudinal markings on the side of the head are a little more marked.
<i>Natrix piscator</i>	3	
<i>N. flavipunctata</i>	7	
<i>Rhabdophis stolatus</i>	9	The snake most frequently seen around the town in Chiang Mai. A specimen captured on 26.8.70 laid 8 eggs on 6.9.70. Two of these hatched on 8.10.70, the rest contained dead full-term embryos. Neither the adult ♀ nor the young could be persuaded to feed in captivity.
<i>Boiga multomaculata</i>	1	
<i>Dryophis nasutus</i>	2	This species is common in Chiang Mai gardens. I never saw <i>D. prasinus</i> which TAYLOR regards as commoner in the north.

<i>Species</i>	<i>No. of specimens</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Chrysopelea ornata</i>	2	
<i>Enhydris plumbea</i>	3	A mostly aquatic snake which attempts to evade capture when on land by a rapid leaping progression over the ground.
<i>E. enhydris</i>	1	TAYLOR does not record this species north of Bangkok. Its presence in the collection suggests, but does not prove, that this specimen originated in Chiang Mai.
<i>Enhydris</i> sp.	1	A very poor specimen. It could be <i>E. jagori</i> .
<i>Bungarus candidus</i>	3	
<i>Trimesurus cf. albolabis</i>	1	This specimen resembles the examples of <i>T. albolabis</i> in the TNRC, but lacks the white line on the outer scale-row. TAYLOR records several specimens of this species from Doi Suthep, and I once encountered a green <i>Trimesurus</i> , probably this species, myself.

I seldom saw snakes at Chiang Mai, and the only other species which I saw frequently was *Naja naja*. I have several sight records of snakes I was unable to identify.

REFERENCE

- TAYLOR, E.H. 1965. The Serpents of Thailand and adjacent waters. Univ. Kansas Science Bull. 45 : 609-1096.

A.S. Cheke