

4. Second record of the sea snake *Laticauda colubrina* in Thailand waters.

The sea snake *Laticauda colubrina* is widely distributed being known from southern Malaya, Singapore, Calcutta, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, coasts of Australia, and islands of the South Pacific; ranging as far as the Fiji Islands, the Caroline Islands and New Zealand (TAYLOR, 1965).

In his review of the snakes of Thailand TAYLOR (1965) includes this species on the strength of "a single specimen in the Hamburg Museum from 'Siam' "which he considered to be the only record for Thailand. He pointed out the possibility that colonies may prove to be found about islands off the east or west coasts of Thailand.

A live specimen of this species was found by Mr. Charles Smith on 16 June 1974 at a sandy beach close to the Phuket Marine Biological Centre on the southern tip of Phuket Island, Phuket Province. The live snake was of typical colouration for the species being blue-grey dorsally with sulphur-yellow head markings and a dirty creamish ventrally, the entire length banded by 41 complete black bands of uniform width and having a white tail tip. The specimen measures 417 mm. in total length and the tail 81 mm. The specimen is a young one bearing a quite distinct umbilical scar, a fact which would appear to substantiate Taylor's (1965) theory that colonies of this species may occur about islands on the west coast of Thailand.

The specimen concerned has been donated to the Centre for Thai National Reference Collections, ASRCT, Bangkok.

I am grateful to Mr. Charles Smith for providing me with the specimen and to Mr. Lim Boo Liat of the Institute of Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur for confirming my identification of the snake.

REFERENCE

TAYLOR, E.H. 1965. The serpents of Thailand and adjacent waters. *Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.*, vol. 45, no. 9 pp. 609-1096, figs. 1-125.

C.B. Frith,

P.O. Box 200, Phuket, Phuket Province, Thailand.

C.B. Frith