

**A RECORD OF THE RED-HEADED KRAIT, *BUNGARUS FLAVICEPS*,
IN RANONG PROVINCE, SOUTHERN THAILAND**

On 6 March 1983, while returning from a short nocturnal excursion in search of owls near the headquarters of Khlong Nakha Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranong Province (9° 28' N; 98° 31' E), the authors encountered a Red-headed Krait *Bungarus flaviceps* at approximately 2100 h. The snake was lying across a trail through the primary evergreen forest only 30 m from a streamside and at an elevation of about 50 m above sea level. It was recognised by its blackish body with striking orange-red head and tail and by its prominent dorsal ridge, which gave the body an almost triangular appearance in cross-section. It was judged to be about 1.5 m long.

The snake appeared very tame and allowed close examination by flashlight. When gently touched near the tail by U.T., it slowly moved off the path into the surrounding undergrowth.

This is apparently only the third record of this species for Thailand. The first Thai specimen of *Bungarus flaviceps* was killed in the mountains of Nakhon Si Thammarat Province and reported by SMITH (1923). The second specimen was collected at Ban Jai Yang, southwest of Ratburi in 1925 (COCHRAN, 1930). Mr Jarujin Nabhitabhata (in litt.) has stated that he has since identified a fourth specimen at Thung Chali, Kuraburi District, Phang-nga Province, in the newly-created Sri Phang-nga National Park (ca. 9° 10' N; 98° 28' E) in May 1987. The specimen was found as a dry carcass, lying 20 m from a stream.

The Red-headed Krait is a species of Sundaic affinity, being distributed from Borneo, through Java and Sumatra, West Malaysia, Tenasserim and Cambodia (WELCH, 1988).

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