

A Note on Predation of *Ptychozoon kuhli* by *Dendrelaphis formosus* (Reptilia: Squamata)

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Although the systematics and adaptations of the Oriental gliding geckos (genus *Ptychozoon*) are fairly well understood at present (Kitchener, 1953; Medway, 1975; Marcellini and Keefer, 1976; Vetter and Brodie, 1977; Brown *et al.*, 1997), there has been little published on their natural history in the wild. The Curator of the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Edward Blyth (in Theobald, 1860; p 298), in a letter to Major Berdmore (?-1859), an important contributor of zoological material from Burma (now Myanmar) to the museum, reported *P. kuhli* (as *Ptychozoon homalocephalum*, the older name for *P. kuhli*, see Stejneger, 1902) as prey of an unspecified species of tree snake. However, no further details were provided. Since Blyth himself did little collecting and is not known to have visited areas within the range of *Ptychozoon* species, the basis for his observations is unknown.

On 15 May 1992 at 1245hrs, an adult (snout-vent length 93.4mm; tail length 81.3mm; UBD 326) female *Ptychozoon kuhli* was discovered in the process of being swallowed by an adult *Dendrelaphis formosus* (snout-vent length 755.0mm; tail length 385mm; UBD 327) at the base of a tree, at the edge of a forest trail in a lowland dipterocarp forest in Sungei Rampoyoh, Belait District, Brunei Darussalam. Since both predator and prey species are primarily arboreal, their discovery close to the ground was somewhat unusual. It is possible that the lizard (which was gravid, with two shelled eggs in its oviduct) ascended the tree in order to deposit the eggs, when it was attacked. Egg-laying by the species close to the substrate has been previously reported by Tiwari (1961).

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