

Tioman Kukri Snake *Oligodon booliati* at Pulau Tioman, Peninsular Malaysia

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Photograph by: Serin Subaraj.

Subject identified by: Law Ing Sind, Serin Subaraj.

Location: Gunung Kajang, Pulau Tioman, Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia.

Elevation: 350 metres

Habitat: Primary forest / hill forest.

Date and time: 26 May 2016, 10:10 hrs.

Identity of subject: Tioman Kukri Snake, *Oligodon booliati* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

Description of record: One adult observed moving amongst leaf litter on the forest floor, stopping abruptly once disturbed by the observer's flashlight. Its estimated total length was less than 50 cm.



Fig. 1.

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Remarks: The subject is identified as *Oligodon booliati* based on (i) a subcylindrical body and a short head, the width of which is barely distinct from the neck, (ii) the complete reddish colouration throughout and (iii) very faint darker banding. The species is endemic to Pulau Tioman (= Tioman Island) which lies 40 km off the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia in the state of Pahang.

An example of this snake was collected in 1962, but the species was not formally named and described until a newer specimen of 51 cm total length (which became the holotype) was acquired in 2001 (Leong & Grismer, 2004). Very few examples of this species have ever been found or photographed, and no other snake species in Peninsular Malaysia bears this striking colour pattern.

References:

Leong, T. M. & Grismer, L. L. (2004). A new species of kukri snake, *Oligodon* (Colubridae) from Pulau Tioman, West Malaysia. *Asiatic Herpetological Research*, 10: 12-16.