

## Montane record of Blue Bronzeback *Dendrelaphis cyanochloris* from Fraser's Hill, Peninsular Malaysia

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**Observers:** Nick Baker, Robert Teo, Noel Thomas.

**Photograph by:** Nick Baker.

**Subject identified by:** Nick Baker.

**Location:** Road to Jeriau Waterfall, Fraser's Hill (Bukit Fraser), Peninsular Malaysia.  
(Lat 3° 43.177'N Long 101° 43.688'E).

**Elevation:** 1170 metres (based on GPS fix, and confirmation on Google Earth).

**Habitat:** Primary, lower montane forest.

**Date and time:** 17 November 2017, 21:29 hrs.

**Identity of subject:** Blue Bronzeback, *Dendrelaphis cyanochloris* (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae).

**Description of record:** A roadkill specimen of *Dendrelaphis cyanochloris* was found during a night drive down the road leading from the town of Fraser's Hill to Jeriau Waterfall. The specimen had an estimated total length of 80 cm, and appeared undamaged (however, it was clearly not a fresh specimen as it had started to emit a faint odour of decomposition). The specimen was removed from the middle of the road, photographed and then placed in nearby forest.



Fig. 1.

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**Remarks:** The roadkill snake is identified as *Dendrelaphis cyanochloris* based on (i) the presence and thickness of the dark band which extends from the snout, through the eye, and onto the neck region only (ii) eyes of medium size, (iii) blue colouration on the anterior flanks and (iv) lack of lateral stripes or bars on the posterior part of the body and tail.

Das (2010) states that *Dendrelaphis cyanochloris* inhabits lowland forests and agricultural areas. Norhayati *et al* (2011) do not include the species in their update of herpetological records for Fraser's Hill, however the species has been found at Fraser's Hill before and at elevations of around 1000 metres at Cameron Highlands, Peninsular Malaysia (Evan Quah, pers. comm.). The recorded elevation of 1170 metres for this roadkill record is thus considered high for the species.

**References:**

Das, I. (2010). *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.

Norhayati, A., Farah, A.D., Chan, K.O., Daicus, B. & Muin, M.A. (2011). An Update of Herpetofaunal Records From Bukit Fraser, Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia. *Malays. Appl. Biol*, 40(2), 9-17.