

Many-lined Sun Skink *Eutropis multifasciata* predation on freshwater crab *Geosesarma* sp. on Busuanga Island, Philippines

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Photograph by: Emerson Y. Sy.

Subjects identified by: Emerson Y. Sy (skink), Jose Christopher E. Mendoza (crab).

Location: Barangay San Nicolas, Municipality of Coron, Busuanga Island, Philippines.

Elevation: 62 metres

Habitat: Stream near farmland.

Date and time: 23 April 2016, 15:00 hrs.

Identity of subjects:

(i) Many-lined Sun Skink, *Eutropis multifasciata* (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae).

(ii) Geosesarmid freshwater crab, *Geosesarma* sp. (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Sesarmidae).

Description of record: An adult male Many-lined Sun Skink was being observed on the bank of a stream when it suddenly dashed into the leaf litter. When it reappeared, it had a small land crab in its mouth (Fig.1). It took the skink less than five seconds to completely swallow the crab.



Fig. 1.

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Remarks: The skink is identified as *Eutropis multifasciata* based on (i) uniform brown color, (ii) ochre-coloured (yellow to orange on typical individuals) blotch on the flanks and (iii) three keels on the body scales (Brown and Alcala, 1980). The crab was identified as *Geosesarma* sp. based on (i) small size, ca. 1.0 cm x 1.0 cm, (ii) carapace squarish, and (iii) ambulatory legs slender and long, third pair longest (Manuel-Santos and Yeo, 2007).

The Many-lined Sun Skink has a wide distributional range, although disjunct, in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and throughout the Philippines. It is a ubiquitous species, both in disturbed and forest areas, and is known to feed primarily on insects. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first documented record of predation on a freshwater crab by this skink species.

References:

Brown, W.C. & A.C. Alcala. (1980). *Philippine lizards of the family Scincidae*. Silliman University Press, Dumaguete City, Philippines. xi + 264 pp.

Manuel- Santos, M.R. & Yeo, D.C.J. (2007). A new species of *Geosesarma* from Palawan, Philippines (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Sesarmidae). *Zootaxa* 1607: 63-67.