

## Buff-striped Keelback *Amphiesma stolatum* at Kaeng Krachan, Thailand

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**Observer:** Charles Currin.

**Photographs by:** Charles Currin.

**Subject identified by:** Charles Currin, Nick Baker.

**Location:** 500 metres outside Sam Yot Gate, Kaeng Krachan National Park (KKNP), Phetchaburi Province, Thailand.

**Elevation:** 240 metres (estimated from Google Earth).

**Habitat:** Mixed agricultural (fallow fields, pineapple and sugar cane), scrub and nearby secondary forest.

**Date and time:** 19 April 2018, 11:00 hrs.

**Identity of subject:** Buff-striped Keelback, *Amphiesma stolatum* (Reptilia: Squamata: Natricidae).

**Description of record:** A freshly injured *Amphiesma stolatum*, measuring an estimated total length of 30 cm, was found on a hot, sunny day at the edge of a sealed road 500 metres outside the Sam Yot Gate to KKNP, next to an overgrown drainage ditch (Figs 1 & 2). Despite its injuries the snake was still alive. It was photographed and then placed in the grass at the edge of the ditch, before crawling underneath dry leaves.



Fig. 1

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Fig. 2

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**Remarks:** The distinctive buff dorsolateral stripes, which run along the entire length of the snake, keeled scales and robust head immediately identify this snake as the Buff-striped Keelback (or White-striped Keelback) *Amphiesma stolatum* (Das, 2010). Chan-ard *et al* (2015) consider this diurnal species to be fairly common, and to occur throughout continental Thailand: their range map indicates that Phetchaburi Province lies within the southern part of its range (which also extends southwards into Prachuap Khiri Khan). However, the species is not listed in Pauwels & Chan-ard (2006) or Pauwels *et al* (2009).

This 30 cm specimen was found at the edge of a drainage ditch in an agricultural area: in common with many species of keelback, this species is usually found in the vicinity of waterbodies (Chan-ard *et al*, 2015).

#### References:

- Chan-ard, T., Parr, J.W.K. & Nabhitabhata, J. 2015. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of Thailand*. Oxford University Press, NY, 352 pp.
- Das, I. (2010). *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.
- Pauwels, O. S. & Chan-ard, T. (2006). Reptiles of Kaeng Krachan National Park, Western Thailand. *Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society*, 54(1), 89-108.
- Pauwels, O. S., Chan-ard, T., Wanchai, P., Kheowyo, B. & Bauer, A. M. (2009). Reptile diversity of Phetchaburi Province, western Thailand: an update. *Hamadryad*, 34(1), 9-21.