



Range Extension of the Black-banded Trinket Snake, *Oreocryptophis porphyraceus* (Cantor 1839) in Lam Dong Province, Vietnam

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The Black-banded Trinket Snake (*Oreocryptophis porphyraceus*) is a medium-sized colubrid found in China, Taiwan, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam (Nguyen et al. 2009). In Vietnam the known distribution of *O. porphyraceus* has been limited to the northern provinces where it often inhabits montane forests with elevations exceeding 800 m (Ziegler et al. 2004; Nguyen et al. 2009; Son and Truong 2014; Das 2016; Van Tan and Truong 2016; Le et al. 2018).

On 2 March 2019 at 2211h, colleagues and I found a Black-banded Trinket Snake crossing a stream (Fig. 1) in the western highlands of Lam Dong Province (11.4475°N, 108.0648°E; WGS 84; 1,281 m asl). The landscape of this area is dominated by tropical montane evergreen forest. Based on criteria listed by Das (2016), we assigned this snake to the subspecies *O. p. vaillanti*. Snout-vent length (SVL) was 61.5 cm and total length (TL) 76 cm. Some damage to the left eye was evident (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Visible damage to the left eye of a Black-banded Trinket Snake (*Oreocryptophis porphyraceus*) found on 2 March 2019 in Lam Dong Province, Vietnam. Photograph by the author.

The most southerly previously published record of *O. porphyraceus* in Vietnam was from Quang Binh Province (Fig.

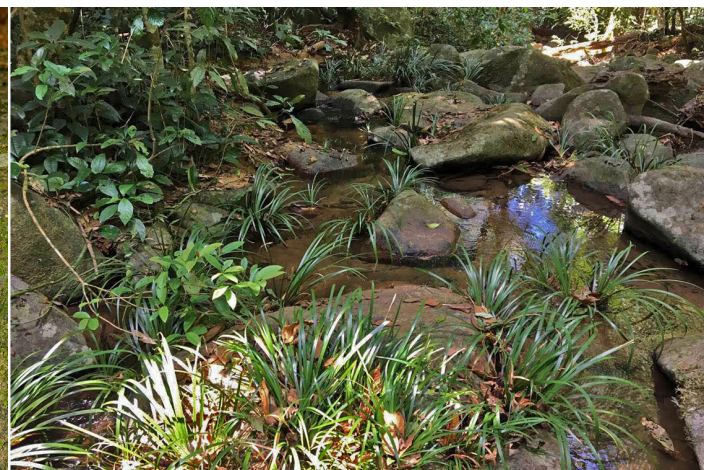


Fig. 1. A Black-banded Trinket Snake (*Oreocryptophis porphyraceus*) found on 2 March 2019 in Lam Dong Province, Vietnam, and habitat at the site where the snake was encountered. Photographs by the author (left) and Khoa Nguyen (right).



Fig. 3. Map of Vietnam (<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/maponline/base-maps/vietnam-provinces>) showing the previously known distribution of the Black-banded Trinket Snake (*Oreocryptophis porphyraceus*) in gray and the range extension in Lam Dong Province in red.

3; Ziegler et al. 2004). This record extends the distribution to Lam Dong Province and is the first report of the species in southern Vietnam.

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