



Predation of a Mizoram Groundsnake, *Blythia hmuifang* (Natricidae), by a Common Mockviper, *Psammodynastes pulverulentus* (Pseudaspididae)

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The Common Mockviper (*Psammodynastes pulverulentus*) is widely distributed from peninsular India to Taiwan and southward through the Sundas to the Philippines (Miller and Zug 2016). The diet of this species includes frogs, lizards, and smaller snakes (Whittaker and Captain 2006; Lalremsanga and Lalronunga 2017). The recently described

Mizoram Groundsnake (*Blythia hmuifang*) (Vogel et al. 2017) has so far been recorded only from Mizoram, India (Uetz et al. 2021).

At 1127 h on 3 October 2021, we encountered a Common Mockviper (ca. 310 mm total length) feeding on a Mizoram Groundsnake (ca. 280 mm total length) on the outskirts of Biate, Serchhip District, Mizoram, India (23.254232°N, 93.121106°E; elev. 1,318 m asl). At the time of the initial observation, the Common Mockviper had engulfed the Mizoram Ground Snake’s head (Fig. 1) but after being disturbed, regurgitated its prey. After measuring the snakes, both were left at the site. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first documented predation event by a mockviper (*Psammodynastes* sp.) on a groundsnake of the genus *Blythia*.

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Fig. 1. A Common Mockviper (*Psammodynastes pulverulentus*) feeding on a Mizoram Groundsnake (*Blythia hmuifang*) in Biate, Mizoram, India. Photograph by K. Laldinliana.