



# A Second Observation of Scavenging in the Checkered Keelback *Fowlea piscator* (Schneider 1799)

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The Checkered Keelback (*Fowlea piscator*) is known to feed upon a wide variety of prey including fishes, arthropods, amphibians, small mammals, and birds (Hossain 2016).

Recently the species has been reported to scavenge on carrion of the frog *Hydrophylax bahuvistara* (Wewhare and Pandey 2021). Herein, we report a second instance of scavenging in *F. piscator*.

At 1345 h on 16 March 2022, at Chatribari Bilpar Road, we encountered a *F. piscator* feeding on discarded chicken intestines (Fig. 1; Link to video: <https://youtube.com/shorts/YtWNN8wIQ4>). The incident occurred outside a butcher shop, where the refuse chicken parts are thrown into the Borsola Beel Wetlands (26.1739N, 91.7469E) in Guwahati City, Assam, India. More observations of feeding behaviors in aquatic snakes will provide insight into how often species feed on animal remains in comparison to live prey.

### Literature Cited

- Hossain, L. 2016. Food habits of Checkered Keelback, *Xenochrophis piscator* (Schneider, 1799), in Bangladesh. *Bangladesh Journal of Zoology* 44: 153–161. <https://doi.org/10.3329/bjz.v44i1.30185>.
- Wewhare, N. and U. Pandey. 2021. First record of scavenging by a Checkered Keelback, *Fowlea piscator* (Schneider 1799) (Natricidae), in Western Maharashtra, India. *Reptiles & Amphibians* 28: 348–349. <https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v28i2.15638>.



**Figure 1.** Checkered Keelback (*Fowlea piscator*) scavenging on refuse of discarded chicken intestines. Full video can be found at <https://youtube.com/shorts/YtWNN8wIQ4>.