



Observation of an Indo-Chinese Ratsnake (*Ptyas korros*) Preying on a Mock Viper (*Psamodynastes pulverulentus*)

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The Indo-Chinese Ratsnake (*Ptyas korros*) is a large colubrid that can reach total lengths of 2.20 m (Ahmed et al. 2009). The species ranges from southern China and Taiwan south to Indochina, Malaysia, and parts of Indonesia, and west to northeastern India, and into Bangladesh (Das 2010; Uetz et al. 2022). The diet of these snakes consists of frogs, lizards, birds, and small mammals (Ahmed et al. 2009; Platt et al. 2017).

Herein, we report an observation of an Indo-Chinese Ratsnake feeding on a Mock Viper (*Psamodynastes pulverulentus*) in an area surrounded by moist deciduous forest in the Geetanagar area of Guwahati City, Assam, India (26.174652433984292 N, 91.80428902872634 E) (Fig. 1). The incident took place around 1140 h on 8 July 2021. By the time we reached the site, the snake had already started swallowing the prey's head. Based on midbody dorsal coloration and markings, we were able to identify the live and still slightly moving prey as *P. pulverulentus*. The ratsnake took approximately 14 minutes to fully ingest the other snake before moving into a nearby bamboo thicket in response to our presence. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first confirmed report of *P. korros* preying on a snake.

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Figure 1. An Indo-Chinese Ratsnake (*Ptyas korros*) feeding on a Mock Viper (*Psamodynastes pulverulentus*) in Guwahati, Assam, India. Photographs by Pranjal Swargiary.