



A Painted Bronze-backed Treesnake, *Dendrelaphis pictus* (Gmelin 1789), Preying on a Berdmore’s Narrow-mouthed Frog, *Microhyla berdmorei* (Blyth 1856), in Teknaf, Bangladesh

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The polytypic Painted Bronze-backed Treesnake (*Dendrelaphis pictus*) is recognized as a species complex (Vogel and Rooijen 2008) that is widely distributed in mixed-evergreen forest, mangroves, and surrounding areas in north-eastern, southeastern, southwestern, and central Bangladesh, where its conservation status is of least concern (Hasan et al. 2014; Chakma 2015). This arboreal diurnal species also ranges throughout much of southern and southeastern Asia (Harikrishnan et al. 2007; Vogel et al. 2021). The diet of *D. pictus* includes anurans, lizards, small birds, eggs, rodents, and other small snakes (Das 2012; Hasan et al. 2014; Khan 2018; Vogel et al. 2021). Specifically in regard to frogs, it

is known to prey on *Polypedates leucomystax*, *Fejervarya cancrivora*, and *F. limnocharis* (Muslin 2017; Hoang et al. 2021). Further information on prey species and capture mechanisms is scanty.

Herein, we report an opportunistic observation at around 1200 h on 10 March 2019 of a Painted Bronze-backed Treesnake capturing a Berdmore’s Narrow-mouthed Frog (*Microhyla berdmorei*), a new prey record for the species, near Whykheong Forest Beat in the Whykheong Forest Range in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh (21.19416667 N, 92.29805556 E). Habitat at the site consisted of homestead vegetation with bushes.



Figure 1. A Painted Bronze-backed Treesnake (*Dendrelaphis pictus*) preying on a Berdmore’s Narrow-mouthed Frog (*Microhyla berdmorei*) in Teknaf, Bangladesh. Photographs © Samir Saha.

When encountered, the snake had captured the frog by its back and, after pausing, began ingesting its prey while suspended on shrubby vegetation (Fig. 1). The snake manipulated the frog before swallowing it headfirst. The entire feeding event lasted four minutes; after which the snake moved to a nearby Mango Tree (*Mangifera indica*).

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